



FEANTSA

Briefing paper

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ACCESS TO HOUSING: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION TOOLKIT

Using international instruments to ensure the right to housing for everyone

FEANTSA, the European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless is an umbrella of not-for-profit organisations which participate in or contribute to the fight against homelessness in Europe. It is the only major European network that focuses on homelessness at the European level.



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INTRODUCTION

This Toolkit is aimed at FEANTSA members and other organisations providing services to people who are homeless or faced with housing and social exclusion. We hope that it will lead to more awareness on cases of housing discrimination and knowledge about available tools to combat it. Exclusion may take the form of discrimination along a number of dimensions, including race, gender, ethnicity, age, disability or sexual orientation. This reduces the opportunity for excluded groups to gain access to social and health services, to the housing market, while limiting their participation in employment, and to society in general.

We hope that this document will prove to be a useful tool for homeless organisations, which increasingly work with users experiencing housing discrimination.

Discrimination cases can be solved in different ways, depending on the national legal framework and local mechanisms. European and international norms are a key element in this area. In terms of housing rights, most States have ratified international instruments and are therefore bound to the obligations they contain. FEANTSA and other organisations have been working to promote the effective implementation of minimum core obligations as to guarantee that everyone enjoys the right to adequate housing without discrimination.

The toolkit is composed of four main sections:

- What is discrimination?
- Why is it important to identify it?
- What can be done?
- What are the complaint mechanisms available?

This toolkit has been prepared by FEANTSA's expert group on the Right to Housing..

Freedom from discrimination is a human right. Housing rights are human rights. There are no equal opportunities without equal rights.



WHAT IS DISCRIMINATION?

International Human Rights legal framework and definitions

To discriminate means “to separate, to distinguish, to separate a thing from another”. A different interpretation would be that discrimination “occurs when a person is treated differently from another person in the same or similar circumstances”. The first definition describes an action or a behaviour that does not necessarily lead to exclusion. The second definition implies a phenomenon where there is an asymmetric relation between persons and where this leads to the fact that these are not treated on an equal footing. In this sense, unfair treatment in access to housing services or to adequate shelter can be considered as being discrimination. Discrimination may have many different causes and may affect people in different circumstances.

The right to non-discrimination is recognised by International Human Rights Instruments, including, **at UN level**, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) or International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In particular, the General Observation 18 adopted by the Human Rights Committee¹ states the following: “the term “discrimination” as used in the Covenant should be understood to imply any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by all persons, on an equal footing, of all rights and freedoms”.

When a State ratifies one of the Covenants, it endorses the responsibility to apply each of the obligations embodied therein and to ensure the compatibility of their national laws with their international duties. This does not mean that the result will be the same in every country. When legislation is adopted by a State party, it must comply with the requirement of article 26 of the ICCPR² and its content should not be discriminatory.

Article 26 states: “All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.” (ICCPR)

At European level, the **Council of Europe** has established significant legal instruments in this context, including the European Social Charter of 1961 and Revised Charter (RESC) of 1996 and the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms 1950 (ECHR). In particular, the Revised European Social Charter (RESC) of 1996³ added new rights in relation to the right to housing and non-discrimination:

¹ See: <http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/0/3888b0541f8501c9c12563ed004b8d0e?Opendocument>

² See: http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/a_ceschr.htm

³ In October 2008, 25 States had ratified the revised European Social Charter. However, only 12 had accepted the provision relating to housing rights (Andorra, Finland, France, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and Ukraine). See: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=163&CM=8&DF=1/7/2009&CL=ENG>



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Article 31 – The right to housing

With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing, the Parties undertake to take measures designed:

- to promote access to housing of an adequate standard;
- to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination;
- to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources.

Article E – Non-discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights set forth in this Charter shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national extraction or social origin, health, association with a national minority, birth or other status.

Another instrument in relation on the fight against discrimination is the Protocol 12 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR)⁴, which provides for a general prohibition of discrimination:

Article 1 – General prohibition of discrimination

1 The enjoyment of any right set forth by law shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

2 No one shall be discriminated against by any public authority on any ground such as those mentioned in paragraph 1.

What is relevant is that Protocol 12 prohibits discrimination as such, and not only in relation to the enjoyment of the other rights protected by the ECHR, as it is the case with Article 14 of the ECHR. In terms of scope, it should however be pointed out that article 1 sets a limitation when it mentions that no-one shall be discriminated against *by any public authority* on any ground.

Article 14 – Prohibition of discrimination

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

In this way, Protocol 12 follows the same approach as Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, the protocol contains a number of difficulties that will eventually have to be clarified and solved by the European Court of Human Rights⁵.

The **European Union** has actively supported recent efforts by the international community to reinforce the respect for the principle of non-discrimination. Article 13 of the Treaty establishing

⁴In January 2009, 17 States parties had ratified Protocol 12. See: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/QueVoulezVous.asp?NT=177&CM=8&DF=1/7/2009&CL=ENG>

⁵See ECHR web page: <http://www.echr.coe.int/echr>



the European Community as amended by the Amsterdam Treaty⁶ provides that within the limits of the powers conferred by the Treaty upon the EU, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination on grounds of sex, race/ethnic origin, religion/belief, disability, age and sexual orientation. In the year 2000 two European Community Directives, the Racial Equality Directive (2000/43/EC)⁷ and the Employment Equality Directive (2000/78/EC)⁸, defined a set of principles that ensure that everyone in the European Union enjoys a common minimum level of legal protection against discrimination. Both directives follow directly from Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty. Council Directive 2000/43/EC and the 'Gender Directive' of 2004⁹, which promote the implementation of the principle of equal treatment between women and men as regards access to and supply of goods and services, address housing¹⁰.

At EU level, the European Court of Justice¹¹ defines discrimination as "the application of different rules to comparable situations or the application of the same rule to different situations"¹². That's implies there is no discrimination if there are objective grounds which justify the unequal treatment.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY DISCRIMINATION?

Access to decent housing is a precondition for the exercise of other fundamental rights and for full participation in society, and discrimination can contribute to housing exclusion.

Homelessness and housing exclusion are complex realities, which are usually the result of a combination of factors. Factors of vulnerability include unstable employment, family status, ethnic status, relationship breakdown, addictions, etc. Causes may be of structural, institutional, relationship-related or personal nature. In general, understanding why and how people become homeless is key to designing and implementing policies, which will ensure access to rights and prevent them from experiencing homelessness.

Although the profile of people who are homeless varies depending on the different countries and cities across Europe, it is possible to sketch a rough outline revealing a gradual change in the profile of those living on the street, who are no longer exclusively men aged 40 years with alcohol problems. There are more and more immigrants, women, and young people faced with housing exclusion.

⁶ See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/treaties/dat/11997D/htm/11997D.htm>

⁷ Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32000L0043:EN:HTML>

Article 3, which is devoted to the scope, explicitly mentions "1. Within the limits of the powers conferred upon the Community, this Directive shall apply to all persons, as regards both the public and private sectors, including public bodies, in relation to: (...) (h) access to and supply of goods and services which are available to the public, including housing."

⁸ Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation. See: <http://europa.eu/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32000L0078:EN:HTML>. See also: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/legis/lgdirect_en.htm

⁹ Council Directive 2004/113/EC of 13 December 2004 implementing the principle of equal treatment between women and men in the access to and supply of goods and services. See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32004L0113:EN:HTML>. See also: <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c10935.htm>

¹⁰ See also the European Commission web site devoted to anti-discrimination: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index.htm For information, in 2008, the European Commission has also issued a Proposal for a directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and a Communication on non-discrimination and equal opportunities: a renewed commitment.

¹¹ See: <http://curia.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

¹² reference to the judgment



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The combination between recent developments in the housing market and discriminatory practices often lead to housing discrimination, which can be one of the factors leading to homelessness. It is important to keep in mind that discrimination is multifaceted and can be present at various levels, including within State, public and civil society structures and processes.

Housing discrimination can be the practice of denying, directly or indirectly, an individual or a group the right to buy, rent a home, rent a room, to access shelter services based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other grounds.

While for different reasons housing discrimination might be difficult to prove, evidence suggests that as a result of discrimination, some groups of the population may be disproportionately represented among those who face difficulties in accessing decent housing. Immigrants and people belonging to ethnic minorities¹³ are at greater risk of exclusion from the housing market. In general, they appear to be over-represented among groups facing housing difficulties, they are more likely to live in deprived areas, in poor quality and overcrowded housing; and likely to spend a higher proportion of their income for housing purposes. Also, high numbers of migrants and members of ethnic minorities use homeless services¹⁴.

How to recognise housing discrimination?

Discrimination can take different forms. Although there is no shared European definition of housing discrimination as such, there are a variety of tools, including recent legislation at Member State level, allowing for a common understanding in this context¹⁵.

> Example: the new Catalan law on housing defines housing discrimination in the following way:

“a. Direct discrimination occurs when a person receives, in a housing related issue, a different treatment than others in a similar situation, as long as the difference in treatment does not have a legitimate justification that is objective and reasonable and the means to reach that objective are adequate and necessary;

b. Indirect discrimination, occurs when a norm, a plan, a conventional or contractual clause, an individual pact, a unilateral decision, a criterion or a practice that is apparently neutral causes a particular disadvantage for someone in respect to others while exercising their right to housing. Indirect discrimination does not exist if the act has a legitimate end that is objective and reasonably justified and is used to reach an adequate and necessary motive;

c. Real estate harassment is understood as any act or omission of an act which causes one's rights to be abused and has the objective of disturbing one's housing needs through harassment and a hostile environment. This can be expressed in a material, personal, or social manner, with the ultimate motive of forcing someone to adopt a decision that they do not want in regards to their right which protects them from occupying their home. The unjustified denial of accepting rent by a homeowner is an indication of real estate harassment¹⁶.

¹³ In this context, it should be said that migration is a varied experience and that not all migrants or people from ethnic minorities are faced with discrimination.

¹⁴ See: Policy measures to ensure access to decent housing for migrants and ethnic minorities, Bill Edgar, 2004; http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/social_inclusion/docs/decenthousing_en.pdf

See also: Migrants, minorities and housing, Malcolm Harrison, Ian Law and Deborah Phillips on behalf of the EUMC, 2005; <http://infoportal.fra.europa.eu/InfoPortal/publicationsFrontEndAccess.do?id=9160>

¹⁵ Beyond Europe, see also the US Fair Housing Act: <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/housing/title8.php>

¹⁶ For the original version of the law, see: http://www.gencat.cat/generalitat/eng/govern/infocatalunya/10_infocat/06.htm



It can be said that:

- **Direct discrimination** occurs when a person is treated less favourably than another person has been or would be treated in a comparable situation, based on any of the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited. Examples of direct discrimination relating to housing include advertising or making any statement that indicates a preference based on a group characteristic, such as skin color or national origin, or refusing to rent to members of certain groups.
- **Indirect discrimination** occurs when an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice applied to all would disadvantage or have a disproportionate impact on people belonging to a specific group, unless this can be objectively justified by a legitimate aim¹⁷. Examples of indirect discrimination relating to housing: refusing to accommodate the needs of disabled tenants; setting different standards for rental, such as higher rent, depending on the person; not foreseeing measures for people with specific needs (for example, homeless women in a male dominated homeless shelter may feel unsafe if there is no specific space for women only).
- **Multiple discrimination:** people have different characteristics, relating to age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or disability for instance. In this context, discrimination can be related to more than one characteristic and this would result in multiple discrimination¹⁸.
- **Harassment:** harassment with the purpose of violating the dignity of a person on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and creating an intimidating, degrading, humiliating and offensive environment is prohibited. Examples of harassment relating to housing: harassment can include actions taken by the landlord, his/her agent or any other person, which interferes with the legal rights of the tenant and his/her peaceful enjoyment of the housing unit. This includes entering the home without permission, threatening eviction without any legitimate ground, threatening to cutting off water, gas or electricity supply; abuse or actual violence¹⁹.

It should be noted that positive action is recognised explicitly in the EU directives when outlawing discrimination will not necessarily be enough by itself to ensure genuine equality of

¹⁷ For instance, Article 2 paragraph 2 of Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin defines direct and indirect discrimination as follows:

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1:

(a) direct discrimination shall be taken to occur where one person is treated less favourably than another is, has been or would be treated in a comparable situation on grounds of racial or ethnic origin;

(b) indirect discrimination shall be taken to occur where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons of a racial or ethnic origin at a particular disadvantage compared with other persons, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary.

¹⁸ Article 6 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which was adopted on 13 December 2006 and was opened for signature on 30 March 2007 refers to "multiple discrimination" in relation to women with disabilities. See: <http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>

¹⁹ The expression "real estate mobbing" has also been used by the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Miloon Kothari, in his Report on his mission to Spain of 7 February 2008, see: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/>



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opportunity for everyone in society. Specific measures might be called for to compensate for disadvantages arising from person's racial or ethnic origin, age or other characteristics which might lead to them being treated unfairly.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Organisations providing housing and services to people who are homeless or in a situation of housing and social exclusion should play an active role in the fight against discrimination, thus enabling the persons they work with to fully enjoy their rights.

At **European level**, organisations should take full advantage of the role that has been given to them under articles 7 and 12 of Council Directive 2000/43/EC, which state: "Member States shall ensure that associations, organizations or other legal entities which have, in accordance with criteria laid down by their national law, a legitimate interest in ensuring that the provisions of this Directives are complied with, may engage, either on behalf or in support of the complainant, with his or her approval, in any judicial and/or administrative procedure provided for the enforcement of obligations under this Directive"²⁰.

The legislation requires that Member States ensure that victims of discrimination have a right to make a complaint through a judicial or administrative procedure and that appropriate penalties are imposed on those who have discriminated. The rules also provide for sharing the burden of proof in civil and administrative cases. This will make it easier for people who have experienced discrimination to prove it. The legislation on racial discrimination requires Member States to designate bodies for the promotion of equal treatment which will provide independent assistance to the victims of discrimination, conduct surveys and studies and publish independent reports and recommendations²¹.

Formally, housing is not a EU competence, although many EU policies have an impact on housing. However, in the last years, the European Union has played a key role in the development of a common anti-discrimination agenda and has put in place many anti-discrimination policies, which can be used together with other available tools to combat housing discrimination.

In this context, what can homeless organisations do?

- Provide users with information on equality rights and policies;
- Monitor, document and denounce discrimination. If the organisation itself lacks the necessary resources to do so, it can provide relevant bodies with information;
- Working in partnership with other NGOs to achieve shared aims and to implement specific programmes. Setting up or joining existing anti-discrimination networks;
- Ensuring that there is a coordination between the Government, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders;
- Using advocacy tools to raise awareness and influence decision-making at different levels;

²⁰ See footnote 7.

²¹ See in the "Useful links" section.



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- Supporting victims of discrimination: depending on the resources of your organisation, this could mean assisting them with information, making available a list of agencies working on anti-discrimination, directing them to the appropriate body, or offering free legal advice when appropriate;
- Empowering vulnerable groups and exercising a mediatory function enabling them to access their rights.

WHAT ARE THE COMPLAINT MECHANISMS AVAILABLE TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION IN THE ACCESS TO HOUSING?

Discrimination is known to occur frequently on different grounds, but usually it does not give rise to many complaints²². There are different reasons explaining this situation, including the fact that discrimination is difficult to prove.

Litigation, both at national and European level, is key to ensuring that principles enshrined in the different legal instruments are guaranteed in practice, and not only in theory. When appropriate, it is important to engage strategic litigation, seeking out or developing legal cases through testing exercises, to trigger jurisprudence on discrimination issues.

Of course, this can be done by your organisation directly, if it has the relevant resources and legal expertise, or it can be done through cooperation with other organisations and/or relevant agencies, which possess such expertise.

At **European level**, the Council of Europe Additional Protocol of 1995 providing for a system of collective complaints aims at improving the effective enforcement of the social rights guaranteed by the Revised European Social Charter. Organisations entitled to lodge complaints with the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), in the case of all States which have ratified the Collective Complaints Protocol of 1995²³, include the ETUC, UNICE, and International non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which have a participative status with the Council of Europe which and are on a list drawn up for this purpose by the Governmental Committee, as well as Employers' organisations and trade unions in the country concerned. Some States might also decide to allow for national NGOs, to lodge complaints²⁴.

The use of the Collective Complaint system offers a valuable avenue for advancing and clarifying housing rights and is creating a valuable corpus of jurisprudence on the obligations of States in relation to the European Social Charter and Revised ESC. It is now open for homelessness organisations to raise the situation in their countries through this mechanism to highlight and clarify breaches of the rights guaranteed to homeless people and other groups in housing need.

²² Discrimination seems to be perceived by Europeans as a widespread problem; see "[Discrimination in the European Union](#)", Special Eurobarometer 296, July 2008; http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb_special_en.htm

²³ See Council of Europe web page devoted to ratifications of the revised European Social Charter and of the Additional protocol relating to collective complaints: http://www.coe.int/t/dqhl/monitoring/socialcharter/Presentation/Overview_en.asp. It is important to keep in mind that even if a State has ratified the Social Charter and the collective complaint mechanism, it does not mean that it has necessarily adopted relevant provisions, such as Article 31 on the right to housing. The first step is therefore to make sure that these provisions be adopted, thus becoming binding..

²⁴ FEANTSA is an NGO entitled to lodge collective complaints. To know more about collective complaints lodged, see: <http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=5>



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European Committee of Social Rights: example of decisions²⁵

- FEANTSA Collective Complaint vs France concerning the violation of Article 31 of Revised European Social Charter on the right to housing have one point directly related with discrimination. The European Committee of Social Rights unanimously concludes that there is a violation of Article 31.3, taken in conjunction with article E (Non-discrimination) on the grounds of deficient implementation of legislation on stopping places for Travellers. At the same time the Committee already considers it could be presumed that there is a problem of indirect discrimination against migrants in respect of access to social housing.
- ERRC vs Italy: in Collective Complaint No. 27/2004, European Roma Rights Center (ERRC) v. Italy, the ERRC complained that the housing situation of Roma in Italy amounted to a violation of Article 31 of the RESC. In addition, it alleged that policies and practices in the field of housing constitute racial discrimination and racial segregation, both contrary to Article 31, read alone, or in conjunction with Article E.
- ERRC vs Bulgaria: in Collective Complaint No. 31/2005 European Roma Rights Center (ERRC) v. Bulgaria, lodged on 22 April 2005, relates to Article 16 alone or in combination with Article E (non-discrimination) of the Revised European Social Charter. The complaint alleges that the situation of Roma in Bulgaria amounts to a violation of the right to adequate housing.

European Court of Human Rights: example of judgment²⁶

- *Moldovan and Others v. Romania*: the applicants complained that, following the destruction of their houses, they could not live in their homes and had to live in very poor, cramped conditions. They also complained that the authorities failed to carry out an adequate criminal investigation, which prevented them from bringing a civil action in damages against the State regarding the misconduct of the police officers concerned. Several applicants also complained about the length of the criminal proceedings. They further submitted that they had suffered discrimination. They relied on Articles 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment), 8 (right to respect for private and family life and home), 6 (access to court) and 14 (prohibition of discrimination) of the Convention.

At **national level**, legislation requires that Member States give victims of discrimination the right to make a complaint through a judicial or administrative procedure and that appropriate penalties are imposed on those who have discriminated. The rules also provide for sharing the burden of proof in civil and administrative cases. This will make it easier for people who have experienced discrimination to prove it. For this reason it's important that NGO's have grounds for a discrimination complaints. Victims of discrimination may also be supported by a non-governmental organisation, which have a legitimate interest.

In this context, if you are a homeless organisation, you may provide the following assistance, depending on the resources and the expertise available:

²⁵ See Council of Europe web page devoted to the European Social Charter, collective complaints section: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/Complaints/Complaints_en.asp

²⁶ See European Court of Human Rights web site : <http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/>



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- Help users to draft relevant letters
- Support or represent users during complaints procedures
- Filling users' case form
- Attend meetings
- Identify injustices and document relevant facts
- Either providing legal advice directly or making available a list of agencies, which may support the users in this context.

It is important to keep in mind that some actions might not be performed directly, should your organisation not have legal capacity for legal action. In this case, it is important to devolve it to specific agencies. Taking legal action is not an easy task and it has many implications.

What should a discrimination complaint contain?

- The date, time, place of the incident(s)
 - A description of the incident(s)
 - Name of anyone present when incident(s) took place
 - The relationship to the person you are complaining about
 - The type of discrimination suffered
 - The area it happened
 - If your complaint is against an organisation, it is important to refer to the registered legal name
 - The name and contact details of the lawyer who agreed to take on your case
 - Any relevant documents that are connected with the complaint
 - The impact of discrimination on users
-
- The results you expect from the complaint procedure
 - It is important to try and use the exact wording people used when reporting the discrimination.

Conclusion

Housing discrimination is a reality across Europe. Homeless service providers have a role to play in this context and there are many tools at their disposal, be it at international, European or national level. It is important to know and keep in mind that there are effective ways to combat discrimination, which may affect the people you work with on a daily basis, and that you can play a role in this.

If you want to know more, please have a look at the following pages, which contain several links to useful resources. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact FEANTSA's office.



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USEFUL LINKS

EU Member States

List of National non-discrimination equality bodies

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/rights/neb_en.htm

European Union

European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/index_en.html

Section "Frequently asked questions" on discrimination

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/fundamental_rights/faq/faq_en.htm

The Court of Justice of the European Communities

<http://curia.europa.eu/en/transitpage.htm>

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

<http://fra.europa.eu/fra/index.php>

2007 European Year for Equal Opportunities for All

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat_id=SPLASH

Stop-discrimination web site

<http://www.stop-discrimination.info/>

Council of Europe

European Social Charter web site

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/socialcharter/default_en.asp

European Court of Human Rights

<http://www.echr.coe.int/echr/>,

Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

http://www.coe.int/t/commissioner/default_en.asp

Council of Europe Anti-discrimination campaign

<http://www.coe.int/t/DG4/ANTI-DISCRIMINATION-CAMPAIGN/>

United Nations

UN web section devoted to Human rights

<http://www.un.org/rights/>

International and European-level advocacy NGOs

AGE, the Older People's Platform

www.age-platform.org

Autism Europe

www.autismeurope.org

COHRE – Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

<http://www.cohre.org/>

European Blind Union

www.euroblind.org

European Youth Forum

<http://www.youthforum.org/>

European Union of the Deaf

www.eudnet.org

European Disability Forum (EDF)

www.edf-feph.org

European Network Against Racism

www.enar-eu.org

European Roma Information Office

<http://erionet.org/site/>

European Roma Rights Centre

<http://www.errc.org/>

European Women's Lobby

<http://www.womenlobby.org/site/hp.asp?langue=EN>

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<http://www.feantsa.org/>

Inclusion Europe

www.inclusion-europe.org

International Gay & Lesbian Association – Europe (ILGA-Europe)

www.ilga-europe.org

Social Platform - Platform of European Social NGOs

www.socialplatform.org

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS ON ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

International Instruments

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
- Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination based on Religion or Belief, 1981
- Declaration on the Rights of persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 1992
- Charter of the United Nations, 1945
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 13 December 2006
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 1998
- The Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
- The 1997 Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

European Instruments

- European Convention on Human Rights, 1950
- European Social Charter, 1961
- European Social Charter (revised), 1996
- Council Directive 2000/43/EC. Equal treatment between persons irrespective racial or ethnic origin.
- Council Directive 2000/78/EC. Equal treatment in employment and occupation.

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