

10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROMOTE EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES



Congress passed the Fair Housing Act in April 1968 immediately following Dr. King's assassination. Amended in 1988, the Act guarantees equal housing opportunities for all people and makes it illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, family status or disability.



1 EDUCATE YOURSELF: Look on the Internet for reliable sources of information about Fair Housing. We recommend the National Fair Housing Alliance (<http://www.nationalfairhousing.org/>) and HUD's Fair Housing Page (<http://www.hud.gov/fairhousing>).

2 ATTEND A CONFERENCE: April of every year is National Fair Housing Month. This year, the City of Austin Equal Employment Fair Housing Office and the Texas Workforce Commission Civil Right Division are sponsoring a Fair Housing Conference on April 30, 2012. To learn more, visit the City of Austin's website.



3 HOST A VIEWING AND DISCUSSION EVENT: The PBS series, Race: the Power of An Illusion, is a three part series that looks at race from a historical perspective and challenges our beliefs. The series includes a section on housing and discrimination. Follow up the viewing with a guided discussion.

4 SPREAD THE WORD: Share what you know with your friends and the community through social media, email, or postal mail. Many organizations such as HUD and National Fair Housing Alliance have public service announcements, posters, and videos on YouTube.



5 VOLUNTEER: Contact your local fair housing agency and volunteer to become a fair housing tester. People from all backgrounds are needed to document discrimination.

6 DONATE: Raise funds for agencies in your community who combat housing discrimination so that they may continue to provide outreach, education and advocacy services.



7 ENGAGE CHILDREN: Read a story to your child's classroom about diversity. Examples: "When Chocolate Milk Moved In" by Ken Harvey, "A Rainbow of Friends" by P.K. Hallinan, "Rolling Along: The Story of Taylor and His Wheelchair" by Jamee Riggio Heelan or other age appropriate books about diversity.

8 ENGAGE ADOLESCENTS: Encourage a letter writing campaign to local, state and federal officials about the importance of fair housing programs or review fair housing cases to understand real world examples of how housing discrimination is occurring today.



9 TAKE A STAND WHEN DISCRIMINATION HAPPENS: If you have experienced discrimination in housing, report it. For more information on reporting, visit our Fair Housing page (http://www.co.travis.tx.us/health_human_services/cdbg/fair_housing.asp).

BE A POSITIVE ROLE MODEL.

