



Commission on Human Rights

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The Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) and Fordham University launch continuing education course to stop illegal housing discrimination.

First-of-its-kind partnership leverages Fordham's Real Estate Institute to expand awareness of city's housing protections.

Launch event features, CCHR, Fordham Law, Unlock NYC, and Neighbors Together discussion on solutions to source of income discrimination.

NEW YORK—The New York City Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) and Fordham University announce a turnkey collaboration between city government and real estate professionals to prevent housing discrimination. CCHR attorneys will offer a course through Fordham's Real Estate Institute (REI) at their Lincoln Center campus. The class will be a crucial and reoccurring touchpoint between real estate professionals and CCHR, raising the visibility of the agency and awareness of the protections in city's Human Rights Law. By taking CCHR's class, realtors and brokers will receive 1.5 credits towards the renewal of their license, which is required every two years. REI's established reputation in the real estate industry and its reach will enhance the city's efforts to counter housing discrimination.

Accredited by New York State, the hour-and-a-half class will cover the New York City Human Rights Law's housing protections and will focus on two areas of housing discrimination most often reported to CCHR: source of income discrimination and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. The class will define key terms, cover best practices, and equip real estate professionals with the knowledge and understanding to comply with the city's Human Rights Law.

The first two trainings will be held on [October 12th](#) and [November 16th](#) at 2:00 PM on Fordham's campus, and while most continuing education courses are costly, CCHR will offer this class free of charge. Moving forward, CCHR will seek approval from the state to conduct the course at more venues around the city, making it accessible to real

estate professionals throughout the five boroughs. Please visit nyc.gov/VouchersPayNYC for update on course dates.

“Given how fundamental safe and affordable housing is to every New Yorker, we cannot tolerate unlawful discrimination in our housing system,” said **Chief Counsel to the Mayor and City Hall Lisa Zornberg**. “We’re proud to partner with Fordham on this new course to give realtors and brokers the tools they need to prevent source of income discrimination, secure reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities, and protect the rights of their clients.”

“When the great institutions of New York City come together, real lasting change happens,” said **Commissioner and Chair of CCHR, Annabel Palma**. “Partnerships between the government, community organizations, and academia are essential to stop discrimination and CCHR is so thrilled to see this class come to fruition. I am thankful to Fordham University for being such a strong partner and to Unlock NYC and Neighbors Together for their continued collaboration as we strive towards equitable access to safe, affordable housing. I look forward to the future partnerships with the real estate industry as we begin this course.”

“For Many New Yorkers, vouchers are key to stable housing for their families; they deserve equitable access to housing units and a process that treats them fairly,” said **Fordham University President, Tania Tetlow**. “Fordham is honored to partner with the NYC Commission on Human Rights to offer essential continuing education to real estate professionals on the front lines, who can make an impact in real time on this pressing issue.”

To mark the launch of this unique course, representatives from CCHR, Fordham Law, Unlock NYC, and Neighbors Together, gathered for a roundtable discussion about illegal source of income discrimination on September 22nd at Fordham University’s Lincoln Center campus. Attendees included CCHR staff, Fordham professors, deans, and students, and community partners. The event kicked off with welcoming remarks from Fordham University president Tania Tetlow and Commissioner and Chair of CCHR, Annabel Palma, followed by a brief overview of the course from the supervising attorney of the Source of Income Unit.

The discussion explored each organization’s strategies to advance housing for all and spotlighted the collaborative effort to increase access to safe, affordable homes for voucher holders. The conversation touched on enforcement, pro-active pathways to root out discrimination, education as a method of prevention, and highlighted the vital role of real estate agents and brokers in stopping source of income discrimination.

“Every day, New Yorkers courageously step up to tell us how they’ve been ghosted or turned away from housing opportunities solely due to their source of income,” said **Co-Founder and Head of Product at Unlock NYC, Ashley Eberhart**. “At Unlock NYC, we are optimistic that comprehensive fair housing education for real estate agents and a continued commitment to strengthening enforcement and accountability for those who choose to discriminate will foster the equitable and inclusive New York City we collectively imagine.”

“Neighbors Together is honored to partner with CCHR, Unlock NYC and Fordham University in our work to end source of income discrimination against housing voucher holders in the NYC rental market, an illegal act that has profound and destabilizing consequences for people seeking housing,” said **Executive Director of Neighbors Together, Denny Marsh**. “Housing discrimination cannot be tolerated, and we are heartened to know that there are many property owners, brokers and real estate agents who genuinely want to help house low-income New Yorkers. We are grateful for CCHR’s work with the Real Estate Institute and with Fordham University to offer this course, which will empower key stakeholders with resources to improve the lives of thousands of low-income New Yorkers who need and deserve safe, affordable, permanent housing.”

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The New York City Commission on Human Rights enforces the New York City Human Rights Law—one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Law includes 27 protected classes in housing, employment, and public accommodations. If you have witnessed or experienced discrimination, contact the Commission at 212-416-0197 or www.nyc.gov/reportdiscrimination.