



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 4, 2026

CONTACT: Jose Rios Lua, press@cchr.nyc.gov

**NYC Commission on Human Rights Steps Up Enforcement,
Orders More Than \$682,000 in Relief**

*Commission releases four decisions, sending a clear message: the city's
antidiscrimination law will be enforced, and violators will pay the price.*

NEW YORK, NY — Under the leadership of Commissioner and Chair Christine Clarke, the New York City Commission on Human Rights has issued four final rulings in rapid succession finding that an employer, landlords, and real estate brokers violated the New York City Human Rights Law by discriminating against New Yorkers trying to practice their faith, access housing, and obtain accommodations for their disabilities. Together, the decisions order over \$682,000 in damages and civil penalties, and require corrective measures designed to prevent future discrimination.

These decisions mark a deep commitment by the Commission to move cases efficiently while delivering meaningful relief for New Yorkers harmed by unlawful discrimination. Rather than allowing cases to linger unresolved, the Commission has advanced multiple matters to final decision simultaneously, signaling a renewed focus on timely enforcement and accountability.

“When the rights of New Yorkers are violated, government should act with urgency to provide relief,” **said Christine Clarke, Commissioner and Chair of the NYC Commission on Human Rights.** “As head of this Commission, I am committed to delivering fair and timely decisions that hold those who violate the law accountable. When businesses refuse to comply with our antidiscrimination laws, there will be real, financial consequences. New Yorkers deserve to live and work without having to worry about losing their job because of their faith, losing access to their home because of a disability, or being unable to rent an apartment simply because they have a housing voucher or other public assistance. And New Yorkers deserve a Commission that moves with the urgency that this work demands.”

The Commission’s four rulings include:

- **An employee fired for being Muslim.** Revival Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services fired an employee one day after learning that he prayed during work breaks. After losing his job, the employee and his young family experienced significant financial hardship and the employee himself was severely scarred by the incident. The experience caused him to hide his faith from future employers for fear that he would again be discriminated against because of his faith.



Commission On Human Rights

- **A tenant died waiting for a reasonable accommodation.** A renter with a disability spent more than four years begging for his landlord to install a ramp or lift at his apartment building so he could safely enter and exit his home. Without the accommodation, he could not leave his apartment without substantial assistance, essentially effectively trapping him in his own home and cutting him off from the outside world. Despite obtaining architectural plans and quotes for the work many years previously, the building refused to meaningfully engage with his request for an accommodation, let alone provide it, and suggested instead that the tenant move from the home where he had lived for almost 40 years. He died waiting for that accommodation.
- **A pregnant mother denied housing because of a voucher.** New American Realty Corp. refused to rent an apartment to a pregnant mother nearing her delivery date. Facing eviction, she searched for an apartment close to her support system using a housing voucher. Instead, a real estate broker made derogatory remarks about her pregnancy and marital status. The experience left her afraid to use her voucher with other brokers. Despite the fact that she had a voucher specifically designed to give her and her family access to more housing opportunities, she was ultimately unable to use the voucher and instead forced to move far from her community and support systems.
- **A family denied housing because of public assistance.** NY Pyramid Group Corp. refused to rent an apartment to a family attempting to find an apartment large enough for their growing family. A broker asked how the family intended to pay and, when told the family had a voucher, said the brokerage does not work with voucher holders. When the family objected, pointing out that discrimination against voucher holders is illegal, the agent became hostile, barking "what are you going to do about it?" A Commission tester later contacted the brokerage and was similarly turned away after disclosing an intent to use a housing voucher. Discouraged by the experience, the family abandoned the search and remained in substandard housing conditions.

More information about these cases can be found [here](#).

Anyone in New York City who feels they have experienced or witnessed discrimination can reach out to the Commission by calling 212-416-0197, or [filling out the online form](#).

###

The New York City Commission on Human Rights is the agency responsible for enforcing the NYC Human Rights Law, one of the most comprehensive civil rights laws in the nation. The Commission works to promote equality and combat discrimination in New York City through law enforcement, community relations, and public education.