

FREEDOM AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS - OCTOBER EDITION

DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT RIGHTS 2024-2025



INDIANA UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT

What is discrimination?

- Treating a person or particular group of people differently, especially in a worse way from the way in which you treat other people, because of their race, gender, sexuality, etc.

“What do my rights against discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin look like?”

- Federal anti-discrimination laws prohibit discrimination in housing, credit, employment, and “public accommodations.”
- You cannot be denied a home, a job, or service at a business that is open to the public because of your race, ethnicity, or national origin, and you cannot be charged a different price because of your race, ethnicity, or national origin.
- The Constitution prevents the government from subjecting you to worse treatment because of your race, ethnicity, or national origin in any situation.
- State and local laws may also provide protection against discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin.

“I’m facing religious discrimination at a public school.”

- School officials may not discriminate against you based on your religious beliefs.
- School officials cannot deny you the same opportunities and privileges provided to students of other faiths.
- School officials are required by law to maintain a school environment free of religious harassment by other students.
- You have the right to express your religious beliefs at school.
- School officials may be required to permit you to wear religious clothing or a religious head covering, such as a yarmulke or hijab, depending on the circumstances of your particular situation.
- School officials may be required to excuse your absences for religious holidays.

“I’m facing religious discrimination in housing.”

- The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits religious discrimination in the rental, sale, and financing of homes, with some exemptions (e.g., for small, owner-occupied buildings). It also prohibits the inclusion of discriminatory terms and conditions as part of a home sale or rental. State and local laws may provide additional protections.
- You can’t be turned away from renting or buying a home because of your religion, or receive less favorable terms and conditions.
- Your neighbors cannot threaten, harass, or intimidate you because of your faith.

“I am facing race, ethnicity, or national origin-based discrimination in my academics.”

- Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, discrimination based on race, color, or national origin in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance is prohibited.
- Your educational institution must respond to instances of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin that deny or limit your ability to take part in and benefit from your school’s educational programs and activities.

“I’m facing race, ethnicity, or national origin-based discrimination in housing.”

- The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing and lending. The federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act also provides protections from discrimination in lending. Both statutes explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin.
- State and local civil/human rights laws typically prohibit discrimination in housing and housing-related services.

“Are LGBTQIA+ students protected from discrimination in schools?”

- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 bans discrimination on the basis of sex by public schools, and the Supreme Court held in 2020 that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is sex discrimination.
- Thus, Title IX prohibits students from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

“Can a landlord refuse to rent to me as an LGBTQIA+ person?”

- The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits sex discrimination by most landlords and, as the Supreme Court held in 2020 that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is sex discrimination.
- The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Housing discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS, or people perceived to have HIV/AIDS, is also illegal under the Fair Housing Act’s protections against disability discrimination.

“What can I do if I feel I’ve been discriminated against?”

- Gather all the documents that might support your claim and locate the people who witnessed the discriminatory conduct.
- Write down a timeline of events and all the facts that lead you to believe you were discriminated against.
- Figure out which government agency can take your complaint.
 - Your city or town may have its own civil or human rights agency that can help.
 - IU Bloomington also has the Office of Institutional Equity, which can help aid victims in cases of discrimination.
- These agencies will ask you to file a description of your complaint with any supporting documents and conduct an investigation at no cost to you.



You belong at IU.

IU Student Government believes in an environment where everyone belongs. No matter who you are or where you come from, you have the right to pursue your education free from discrimination. We stand together to ensure everyone's voice is heard, valued, and protected. Here, you are not alone, this is your home, your university, and your place to grow, learn, and thrive.

Remember, you belong at Indiana University.

Fuse team

IUSG 2024-2025 Administration



@iustudentgov



iusgexec@iu.edu



iustudentgovernment.indiana.edu