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Contact: Amy Nelson, Executive Director
Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana
Phone: 317-644-0673 x1001
Email: anelson@fhcci.org

FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF CENTRAL INDIANA HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) celebrates Women's History Month and the strides that have been made in gender equality. Due to the leaders of the Women's Rights Movement, the federal Fair Housing Act was amended in 1974 to ensure equal access to housing regardless of gender. In recent years, the gender definition has been expanded to not only protect women or men from discrimination but also provides protection from housing discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or for being transgender.

Gender discrimination in housing can take many forms. Very often it is overly restrictive housing policies disproportionately impacting women with children as primary caretakers. It may also be banks refusing to originate mortgages to women on maternity leave. It could be domestic violence survivors being targeted with nuisance complaints for calling the police when a violation of a protective order occurs. It may be a landlord requesting sexual favors when a tenant falls behind on rent or needed repairs. It can take the form of a growing number of incidents nationally, in the targeting of renters due to their sexual orientation, transgender status, or gender identity, in refusals to rent or the application of rules or policies. It may also be the impact of eviction filings upon women, especially women of color with children, where as noted by [Emily Benfer](#), "The single greatest predictor of an eviction is the presence of a child."

In the past 10 years, the FHCCI has received over 400 allegations of gender-based housing discrimination. Due to the nature of the allegations, especially gender-based harassment, and the extremely challenging housing market we find ourselves in, we know that these incidents are vastly underreported. It is imperative that housing providers understand their responsibilities when it comes to gender-based housing protections and that housing consumers understand their rights under law in order to report it.

The FHCCI is here to support those who may have experienced gender-based housing discrimination. In recent years, we have assisted:

- A mom with three children being told [she cannot rent a two-bedroom unit](#) because the landlord would not allow her baby to sleep in the same bedroom as her.
- A female renter [solicited by her landlord](#) for sex for rent.
- A property company managing student housing and [enforcing a one-person per bedroom policy](#) with rules banning a one-year child from sharing a room with their single parent.

Sexism still exists in and outside of housing. In addition to housing barriers, we also must draw attention to the significant gaps and challenges experienced by Hoosier women as it relates to fair pay, reproductive options and maternal health, access to affordable child care, and the targeting of transgender women and girls through recent legislative actions.



One act of discrimination is too many. To learn more, visit the [FHCCI Gender Page](#), follow us on social media, watch our [YouTube videos](#), and consider attending our upcoming [11th Annual Fair Housing Conference](#).

The Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana (FHCCI) is a private, non-profit fair housing organization based in Indianapolis, Indiana. Its mission is to ensure equal housing opportunities by eliminating housing discrimination through advocacy, enforcement, education, and outreach. For more information, visit: www.fhcci.org

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