

## I'm Not Racist, But...



Guide for  
property  
tenants



## Have you experienced discrimination in accessing housing in Malta?

Are you aware that Maltese legislation prohibits discrimination on the basis of race or ethnicity through the Equal Treatment of Persons Order?

## Know Your Rights!

## What is Discrimination?

**Discrimination occurs when a person or group is treated differently to other people based on a set characteristic such as sex, gender identity, race, ethnic origin, age, disability, religion or sexual orientation.**

**Discrimination in housing may take place in denying, directly or indirectly, an individual or a group, the right to buy or rent any housing on the basis of their 'race', ethnicity or colour.**



## Why is it important to identify it?

Access to decent housing is a basic human right, and a pre-requisite for full participation in society.

In Malta it is against the law to be discriminated against because of your race or ethnic origin.

### Have you experienced discrimination in housing?

Examples of **discrimination** relating to housing would include:

- Refusing to rent to you, based on a certain characteristic, such as skin colour or ethnic origin.
- Setting different standards for rental, such as higher rent, or higher utility bills.
- Treating you differently from others, for example, refusing to provide a written agreement, receipts or copies of bills.
- Demanding extra fees outside of your agreement.
- Unfounded threats of eviction based on unfounded allegations.
- Verbal or physical abuse, or treating you unfavourably in other ways.

You have a right to speak up or make a complaint to the authorities or NCPE if you believe you are a victim of discrimination.

## Guide for property tenants



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## What can you do?

If you think you have experienced discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnicity you have the right to make a complaint.

You can contact the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE).

### NCPE will:

- hear your story
- give you information
- guide you on what you can do
- help you fill in a complaint form
- investigate your complaint

You have a right to speak up or make a complaint to the authorities or NCPE if you believe you are a victim of discrimination.

Through Legal Notice 85 of 2007, Maltese law was brought in line with the Race Equality Directive 2000/43/EC.

The legal notice sets out the illegality of discrimination based on race and ethnic origin in relation to goods and services and their supply.

## What does this mean?

This means that in Malta it is against the law to discriminate against any person in the supply of goods and services available to the general public. This includes access to and supply of housing.

Persons found to be in infringement of such law may face a fine, or face imprisonment, or both. You also have a right to ask for compensation.

**The National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) is Malta's National Equality Body which works on different types of discrimination, including race and ethnic origin.**

For more information on the National Commission for the Promotion of Equality (NCPE) and the Race Equality Directive 2000/43/EC and what your rights are, you can contact NCPE on:

**Gattard House, National Road, Blata I-Bajda HMR 9010.**

Tel: **2590 3850** Fax: **2590 3851** Email: **equality@gov.mt**

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