



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERASE Racism Applauds New State Regulations on Fair Housing

More Action is Still Needed

Syosset, NY – April 29, 2019 – The New York Department of State’s Division of Licensing Services has adopted [new regulations](#) to address widespread housing discrimination that violates State law. They were announced on Monday by the New York State Board of Real Estate and take effect on June 20. They require real estate brokers and salespersons and their employees and agents to notify – and obtain signed disclosure forms from – prospective buyers, sellers, renters and landlords about anti-discrimination laws and to display prominently information about how customers can file complaints. In response to the announcement of the new regulations, Elaine Gross, President of ERASE Racism, issued the following statement:

“With these new regulations, New York State has taken an important step in addressing widespread, illegal, housing discrimination. The regulations send two clear messages to realtors and landlords: first, the State is clarifying the responsibility of the Division of Licensing Services for enforcement of fair housing laws; second, the Division of Licensing Services will hold realtors and landlords accountable for abiding by fair housing laws.

This step should, however, be the first of many. ERASE Racism and the Fair Housing Justice Center proposed on December 12, 2019, at a joint hearing of three New York State Senate Committees a [five-point plan](#) that includes the following core points:

- Fully utilize the licensing power of the State to better regulate real estate licensees
- Create a well-resourced, proactive, and better coordinated fair housing enforcement strategy
- The real estate industry should take affirmative steps to ensure compliance with fair housing laws
- Affirmatively further fair housing in all housing and community development activities

- New York State should implement fair housing legislative initiatives, policy changes, and support for programs that expand access to housing opportunities in all neighborhoods.

All five of these steps need to be implemented if New York is to eliminate discrimination in housing that violates State law.”

Additional information on ERASE Racism is available at www.eraseracismny.org.

[ERASE Racism](#) is a regional civil rights organization based on Long Island that exposes and addresses the devastating impact of historical and ongoing structural racism, particularly in public school education and housing. It does so through research, policy advocacy, legal action, and educating and mobilizing the public – driving policy change at local, regional and statewide levels and through national coalitions. It has been recognized locally and nationally for its cutting-edge work.