

## **Statement of Inclusion and Non-Discrimination**

As an Association that represents over 9,000 members with many differing viewpoints the association is and always will be inclusive, never exclusive.

REALTORS® are required by Federal Fair Housing Act to protect an individual's right to rent, sell, or own housing without the threat of unlawful discrimination. Specifically, prohibited discrimination in the sale, rental and financing of dwellings and other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status and handicap.

While the Federal Fair Housing Act sets minimums in terms of certain protected classes, individual states are empowered to enact laws that further extend to additional protected classes. The State of Minnesota Human Rights Act, titled Unfair Discriminatory Practices Relating to Real Property does just that. It states, "It is unfair discriminatory practice for an owner, lessee, sublessee, assignee, or managing agent of, or other person having the right to sell, rent or lease any real property, or any agent of any of these (1) to refuse to sell, rent or lease or otherwise deny to or withhold from any person or group of persons any real property because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or familial status." REALTORS® note the addition of protected classes between the Federal and State Standards.

Finally, all REALTORS® are members of the National Association of REALTORS® and subscribe to its strict Code of Ethics. Article 10 of the National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics states, "REALTORS® shall not deny equal professional services to any person for reasons of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity. REALTORS® again note the addition of protected classes between Federal Standards, State Standards, and the REALTORS® Code of Ethics. REALTORS® request Federal Fair Housing Laws be updated and amended to include "sexual orientation" and "gender identity," consistent with the NAR Code of Ethics.

As noted, and while regulations do vary, Minneapolis Area REALTORS® has an unwavering commitment to diversity that will ensure the highest level of respect inclusion and non-discrimination.

Thursday, August 15, 2019