

## FILING A COMPLAINT

If you believe that you have been discriminated against or that your civil rights have been violated, you may:

- ◆ File a written complaint with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York  
Attn: Chief of Civil Rights  
271 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 254-7000
- ◆ Email a complaint to:  
USANYE-CivilRights@USDOJ.gov

All complaints received by the Civil Rights Unit will be reviewed and evaluated for appropriate disposition, which could include opening a case on behalf of the individual complainant, referring the complaint to the appropriate agency or DOJ component, or other measures.

### UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT

**MICHAEL J. GOLDBERGER**  
CHIEF OF CIVIL RIGHTS  
CIVIL DIVISION

**ELIZABETH GEDDES**  
CHIEF OF CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

Visit the following websites for further information:

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/index.html>

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/>

<http://www.ada.gov/>

<http://www.fbi.gov>



## CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

**BREON PEACE**  
United States Attorney

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271 Cadman Plaza East  
Brooklyn, New York 11201

(718) 254-7000

## CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT



The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York has established a rigorous practice to enforce federal civil and criminal civil rights statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, disability, and other protected characteristics. The Office has successfully litigated and resolved a variety of civil cases involving, among other things, fair housing, law enforcement misconduct, and access to public accommodations and has criminally prosecuted cases involving hate crimes, color of law violations and human trafficking.

### CIVIL ENFORCEMENT

The Civil Division of the Office brings cases under a number of federal statutes, including the:

- Fair Housing Act
- Equal Employment Opportunity Act
- Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Equal Educational Opportunities Act
- Voting Rights Act of 1964
- Equal Credit Opportunity Act

### Fair Housing

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discriminatory housing practices based upon race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and familial status.



The Office is authorized to bring a lawsuit if it finds a pattern or practice of unlawful conduct or if the matter raises an issue of public importance. The Office may also litigate cases on behalf of private citizens who elect such action upon a finding of reasonable cause by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD complaints may be filed by going to [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov).

### Disability Rights

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in many contexts, including employment, state and local government activities, places of public accommodation, transportation, and telecommunications. The Office is authorized to investigate complaints, conduct compliance reviews to ensure accessibility, initiate and intervene in litigation, and provide technical assistance to businesses, governments, and the general public to promote voluntary compliance with the ADA.



### Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons

The Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA) protects the rights of individuals confined to state and local institutions such as psychiatric facilities and prisons. The Office investigates and litigates to ensure that conditions in these facilities meet constitutional standards, and monitors conditions post-judgment.

### CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

#### Hate Crimes

The Office's Criminal Division investigates and prosecutes cases involving violence based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religious beliefs, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, and cases involving willful interference with constitutionally protected rights.

#### Color of Law Violations

The Office's Criminal Division investigates and prosecutes the willful deprivation of citizens' constitutional rights by officials and officers acting under color of law, such as the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers.

#### Human Trafficking

The Office's Criminal Division prosecutes the use of force, threats, or coercion to compel labor or services, including commercial sex acts, from adults and children. Modern day slavery can involve migrant laborers, sweat shop workers, domestic servants, and brothel workers.