

#FightforHousingJustice: HUD is Proposing a Rule that Eliminates Critical Housing Protections for Domestic Violence Survivors



Domestic violence is a primary cause of homelessness for women. Women account for over 80% of survivors of domestic violence and often struggle to maintain stable housing for themselves and their children.

Disparate impact is a legal tool that advocates have used to advance the housing rights of survivors. However, HUD is proposing changes that would make disparate impact basically impossible to use. These changes would allow landlords and local municipalities to adopt and enforce discriminatory policies that disproportionately affect domestic violence survivors. Such policies harm domestic violence survivors who are often evicted for the violent acts of their partners or visitors.

For Example:



- When domestic violence survivors request transfers between housing units to escape their abusers, they often face obstacles from property owners. Disparate impact theory has been used to ensure that survivors who are in imminent physical danger can request emergency transfers.



- Some landlords will try to evict survivors for property damage caused by their abusers. If a survivor cannot pay for the property damage, they will be forced to leave their home. HUD has come out against these discriminatory policies, in cases where a property owner required a survivor to pay for damage or face eviction.



- In many cities, nuisance or crime-free ordinances are used to evict survivors if they call first responders like the police too many times. Even in places that have protections for survivors against these ordinances, survivors may be evicted mistakenly or arrested if they defend themselves. HUD has recognized that such policies can have a disparate impact.

What can I do?



Fight back! Tell HUD that you oppose this proposed rule by submitting a comment by **October 18, 2019**. Learn more at www.fightforhousingjustice.org.

A [template comment letter](#) is available to get you started. Remember to customize your comments to maximize their impact!