



**Pennsylvania
Association of
Realtors®**

Policy Statement LGBTQ Non-Discrimination

Background

Broader social acceptance and increased legal protections have been empowering for LGBTQ consumers in recent years, but bias remains. It is not only a matter of equity and fairness to treat members of the LGBTQ community with the same professional respect as any others, it also a requirement as a Realtor®. Article 10 of NAR's Code of Ethics prohibits Realtors® from discriminating based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. Demonstrating a commitment to providing equal treatment is also a smart business move. According to a Harris Interactive survey, about 66 percent of LGBTQ adults say that they would remain loyal to a brand they believed to be friendly to and supportive of the LGBTQ community.

PAR Position

PAR opposes discrimination and believes that all people should be treated fairly and with respect. Public policies reflecting an open and welcoming environment ensures equal opportunity, fosters economic growth and prosperity, which benefits all inhabitants of this commonwealth. Conversely, the absence of nondiscrimination protections hinders the ability of the LGBTQ community to secure access to all forms of real property as well the real estate industry's efforts to recruit, employ and retain the diversity of talented individuals and successful enterprises required for a thriving economy and strong public sector on which the inhabitants of this commonwealth depend.

PAR supports updating the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act to include prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Such discrimination foments domestic strife and unrest, threatens the rights and privileges of the inhabitants of the commonwealth, and undermines the foundations of a free democratic state.

*Approved by the PAR Board of Directors
September 2020*