

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RIGHTS OF NEW AMERICANS
IN VERMONT**

<p>Who is protected under Vermont's discrimination laws?</p>	<p>You are protected on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status. In housing, there are additional protections for families with children or those receiving public benefits (including housing assistance).</p>
<p>What civil rights do New Americans have?</p>	<p>Every person who lives in the United States, regardless of whether they are documented or undocumented, has Constitutional and civil rights.</p> <p>You have the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live where you choose and be free from harassment and discrimination • Enter any business that is open to the public • Participate in programs/services • Purchase goods and services • Wear religious clothing/ symbols • Obtain an Identify Card or Driver Privilege Card license to drive regardless of status • Speak a language other than English • Be provided with an interpreter in government services/programs • Access medical care in an emergency room • Access education for your children regardless of status • Travel freely on roads <p>These are some examples. Other rights are also protected.</p>
<p>Who do I complain to if I believe I have been discriminated against?</p>	<p>Violations of civil rights can be filed with the Human Rights Commission (HRC).</p>
<p>What rights do children have in Vermont schools?</p>	<p>All Vermont schools have policies that prohibit harassment based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation and marital status. All complaints of harassment must be quickly</p>

	investigated by school officials and the harassment made to stop. If your child is harassed in school, on the way to school, on a school bus, at a school event or even on-line after school hours, the harassment should be reported immediately. If you are not satisfied with the results of the school's actions, you can file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.
What is a hate crime?	A crime against another person because of that person's race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation is a hate crime. Hate crimes carry greater criminal penalties. They can be investigated by the police or by the Attorney General's Office
What can I do if I feel I have been discriminated against?	See list of agency contacts below. <i>Language services are available.</i>

Vermont Human Rights Commission
(800) 416-2010
(802) 828-1625 or 828-2480
Human.rights@vermont.gov
Hrc.vermont.gov (website)

Vermont Attorney General's Office
Civil Rights Division- Hate Crimes/Employment discrimination
(888) 745-9195
Ago.vermont.gov (website)

Vermont Agency of Education
(802) 479-1030
Education.vermont.gov (website)

Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services
(800)750-1213 or (802) 2241-1250
Ccvv.state.vt.us (website)