



# Know Your Rights: Workplace Discrimination is Illegal

The U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity & Civil Rights Programs (OEOCRP) enforces Federal laws that protect federal employees from discrimination in employment. If you believe you've been discriminated against at work or in applying for a job, the OEOCRP may be able to help.

## Who is Protected?

- Employees (current and former), including managers
- Job applicants

## What Organizations are Covered?

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Indian Education
- Bureau of Trust Fund Administration

## What Types of Employment Discrimination are Illegal?

Under the EEOC's laws, an employer may not discriminate against you, regardless of your status, on the bases of:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- National origin
- Sex (including pregnancy and related conditions, sexual orientation, or gender identity)
- Age (40 and older)
- Disability
- Genetic information (including employer requests for, or purchase, use, or disclosure of genetic tests, genetic services, or family medical history)
- Retaliation for filing a charge, reasonably opposing discrimination, or participating in a discrimination lawsuit, investigation, or proceeding.

## What Employment Practices can be Challenged as Discriminatory?

All aspects of employment, including:

- Discharge, firing, or termination
- Harassment (including unwelcome verbal or physical conduct)
- Hiring or promotion
- Assignment
- Pay (unequal wages or compensation)
- Failure to provide reasonable accommodation for a disability or a sincerely-held religious belief, observance or practice
- Reprimand
- Job training
- Suspension
- Referral
- Obtaining or disclosing genetic information of employees
- Requesting or disclosing medical information of employees
- Conduct that might reasonably discourage someone from opposing discrimination, filing a charge, or participating in an investigation or proceeding.

## What can You Do if You Believe Discrimination has Occurred?

The first step is to contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Programs (OEOCRP), within 45 days from the date the discrimination occurrence. Do not delay, because there are strict time limits for filing a charge of discrimination. You can reach the OEOCRP in any of the following ways:

**Call: EEO Hotline: (202) 219-1650; or,**

**Fax: (202) 513-7572**

**Email: [bia\\_bie\\_eeo@bia.gov](mailto:bia_bie_eeo@bia.gov)**

### Mailing Address:

**Office of Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Programs  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, NW, MS-4660-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240**



Additional information about the OEOCRP, including information about filing a complaint of discrimination, is available at:  
<https://www.bia.gov/bia/eo>

## EMPLOYERS HOLDING FEDERAL CONTRACTS OR SUBCONTRACTS

The Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) enforces the nondiscrimination and affirmative action commitments of companies doing business with the Federal Government. If you are applying for a job with, or are an employee of, a company with a Federal contract or subcontract, you are protected under Federal law from discrimination on the following bases:

### **Race, Color, Religion, Sex, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, National Origin**

Executive Order 11246, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination by Federal contractors based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, and requires affirmative action to ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of employment.

### **Asking About, Disclosing, or Discussing Pay**

Executive Order 11246, as amended, protects applicants and employees of Federal contractors from discrimination based on inquiring about, disclosing, or discussing their compensation or the compensation of other applicants or employees.

### **Disability**

Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, protects qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment by Federal contractors. Disability discrimination includes not making reasonable accommodation to the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee, barring undue hardship to the employer. Section 503 also requires that Federal contractors take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified individuals with disabilities at all levels of employment, including the executive level.

### **Protected Veteran Status**

The Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, 38 U.S.C. 4212, prohibits employment discrimination against, and requires affirmative action to recruit, employ, and advance in employment, disabled veterans, recently separated veterans (i.e., within three years of discharge or release from active duty), active duty wartime or campaign badge veterans, or Armed Forces service medal veterans.

### **Retaliation**

Retaliation is prohibited against a person who files a complaint of discrimination including harassment.

## PROGRAMS OR ACTIVITIES RECEIVING FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### **Race, Color, National Origin, Sex**

In addition to the protections of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Employment discrimination is covered by Title VI if the primary objective of the financial assistance is provision of employment, or where employment discrimination causes or may cause discrimination in providing services under such programs. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities which receive Federal financial assistance.

### **Individuals with Disabilities**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity which receives Federal financial assistance. Discrimination is prohibited in all aspects of employment against persons with disabilities who, with or without reasonable accommodation, can perform the essential functions of the job.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in a program of any institution which receives Federal financial assistance, you should immediately contact the Federal agency providing such assistance.