STATEMENT REGARDING DISCRIMINATION ISSUE

**Purpose of the NAACP:**

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all, and to eliminate radical hatred and racial discrimination. The NAACP strives for a society where all individuals are treated fairly and equally.

**The NAACP addresses DISCRIMINATION ISSUES.**

The NAACP may be able to help you if your complaint involves discrimination due to:

- Race or ethnicity
- Gender
- Religion
- Age
- Disability/Handicap
- Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual)
- Gender orientation (transgender, transsexual)
- Other kinds of discrimination

If the wrong that was done to you does NOT involve discrimination, please skip to the next page to find some resources.

We regret that we are unable to assist in matters outside of our mission.

**What the Cleveland NAACP CAN do if I file this Statement:**

- Refer you to a resource that may be able to help you.
- When appropriate, we may address the issue ourselves by writing letters, making phone calls, or requesting a meeting between parties.
- When appropriate, we may also perform additional investigation of the issue ourselves to determine what referrals or actions are appropriate.

**What the Cleveland NAACP can NOT do:**

The NAACP is NOT a legal services organization and can NOT guarantee legal assistance or advice.

*Filing this Statement with the NAACP does NOT substitute for filing a legal complaint or lawsuit with a court or filing a complaint with a legal organization.*

If you want legal action, you are still solely responsible for filing whatever legal documents are appropriate with the court or other legal organization.

The Cleveland NAACP makes its best effort to review and address discrimination issues in a timely manner.
We regret that we do not have the resources to investigate issues that do NOT involve discrimination.

**Was I discriminated against?**

**If YES...**
please complete the Statement Regarding Discrimination Issue

**If NO...**
please contact an attorney
or look below for places that may be able to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue:</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Complaints about neighbors</td>
<td>Local police department</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Theft or burglary</td>
<td>Local police department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Complaints about landlords and housing issues that are <em>not</em> related</td>
<td>Housing Department (216) 361-9240</td>
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<td>to discrimination</td>
<td>Local school district</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Education-related complaints that are <em>not</em> related to discrimination</td>
<td>Local school board</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Police misconduct (wrongful arrest, excessive force, tampering with</td>
<td>Private attorney</td>
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<td>evidence, etc) that are <em>not</em> related to discrimination</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Wrongful conviction/imprisonment that is <em>not</em> related to discrimination</td>
<td>Ohio Innocence Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Prisoner rights violations that are <em>not</em> related to discrimination</td>
<td>The law says a prisoner must exhaust the complaint</td>
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<td></td>
<td>system of that prison</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Only after the complaint system of that prison</td>
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<td></td>
<td>exhausted may a prisoner file a lawsuit with an</td>
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<td></td>
<td>attorney</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Legal issues of all kinds</td>
<td>Legal Aid Society (216) 687-1900</td>
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</table>
I hereby request the assistance of the Cleveland branch of the NAACP in seeking a remedy to the situation described below.

I understand that the NAACP is NOT a legal services organization and does NOT guarantee legal assistance or advice.

If your issue regards EMPLOYMENT:
If you were discriminated against at your job, the law says you MUST file a complaint with the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunity Commission) before filing a lawsuit.
You should file with the EEOC before filing a Statement with the NAACP. Please do not fill out this form now.

Cleveland EEOC: 1-800-669-4000 www.eeoc.gov

FOR ALL OTHER ISSUES, please continue:

Your name: ____________________________ Today’s date: __________________
Street address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: __ Zip: __________
Phone: (____)________________________ Message phone/email: _________________

Who discriminated against you?
Organization: __________________________________________________________
Person(s): ____________________________
Street address: ____________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: __ Zip: __________
Phone: (____)________________________

TYPE OF DISCRIMINATION INVOLVED

___ Race/Ethnicity  ___ Disability/Handicap
___ Gender  ___ Sexual orientation (gay, lesbian, bisexual)
___ Religion  ___ Gender orientation (transgender, transsexual)
___ Age  ___ Other ____________________________

Do you already have a lawyer regarding this issue? Yes ___ No ___
If yes, lawyer’s name: ____________________________ Phone: (____)__________

What date(s) did the incident(s) happen? ____________________________
What happened? ________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________
Witnesses to the Incident:

Witness 1: ___________________________ Position: __________________________
How do we contact him/her? __________________________

Witness 2: ___________________________ Position: __________________________
How do we contact him/her? __________________________

Witness 3: ___________________________ Position: __________________________
How do we contact him/her? __________________________

Do you have funds to pay any legal fees that may arise? Yes ___ Yes, but only a little ___ No ___

What kind of help do you want from the NAACP? __________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
By signing below, I, {name} declare all of the following:

1. The statements that I have made here are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

2. I do NOT expect the Cleveland Branch or the National NAACP to provide legal assistance in this matter. I understand that the NAACP is NOT a legal services organization and does NOT guarantee legal assistance or advice.

3. I understand that:
   - Filing this Statement does NOT create an attorney-client relationship.
   - Filing this Statement with the NAACP is NOT the same as filing a legal complaint with a court or other legal organization.
   - If I want legal action, I am still solely responsible for filing whatever legal documents are appropriate with the court or other legal organization.
   - Filing this Statement does NOT extend any statute of limitations or time periods for filing documents with the court or other organization.

4. I understand that if a referral is made to another agency, community agency or private attorney, the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP IS NOT RESPONSIBLE for handling this matter.

5. If the Cleveland NAACP decides to investigate further, I authorize the NAACP (including all staff, volunteers, and affiliates) to conduct an investigation of my issue, obtain and/or review documents, and take any steps necessary to resolve the complaint, including contacting my employer, lawyer, agent or any potentially relevant parties.

6. I understand that by signing this document, I am agreeing to hold the Cleveland Branch of the NAACP harmless for any and all damages arising as a result of how the Cleveland NAACP handled or did not handle my issue.

______________________________
SIGNATURE of person making Statement

______________________________
PRINTED NAME of person making Statement

______________________________
DATE

SUBMIT THIS FORM:

By mail:  
NAACP—Cleveland Office  
12200 Fairhill Rd., #401  
Cleveland, OH 44120

By scanning and emailing:  
naacpclemembers@gmail.com