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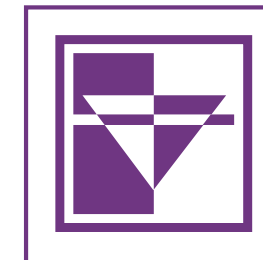


EDUCATION  
RESEARCH  
ADVOCACY &  
SUPPORT TO  
ELIMINATE  
RACISM

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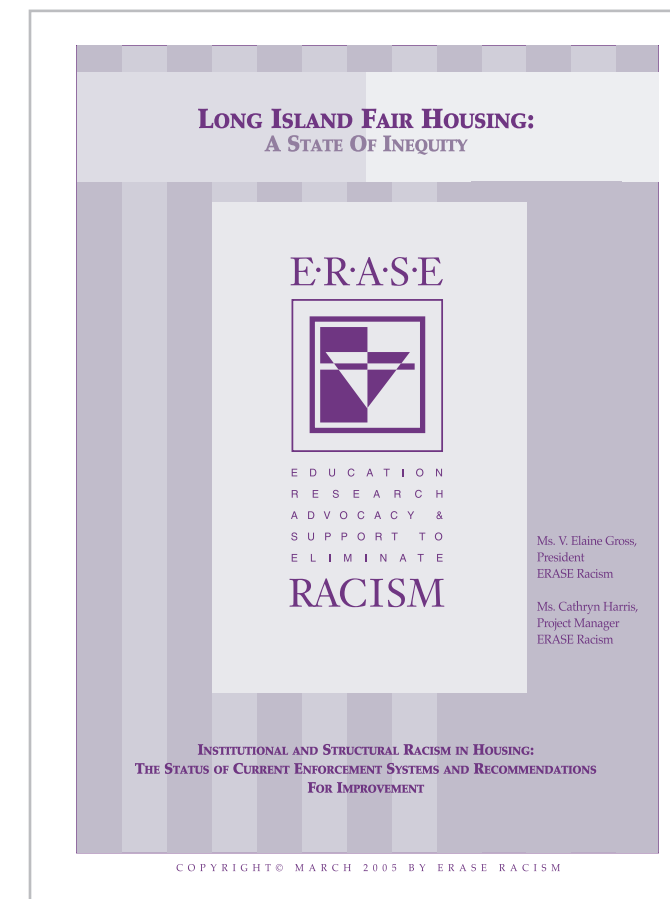
# THE RACIAL EQUITY REVIEW Emerge



ERASE RACISM'S NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH, TRENDS, AND OUR WORK.

Summer 2005

## LONG ISLAND FAIR HOUSING: A STATE OF INEQUITY



More than a quarter century after the first federal laws were enacted to encourage fair housing, Long Island still lags far behind the rest of the nation, with 83.8% of white Long Islanders living in solely white communities. Long Island rates an astonishing 74 out of 100 on the Segregation Index, with 100 being strict apartheid. ERASE Racism set out to discover why Long Island remains the third most segregated suburban area in the United States.

The reasons for Long Island's segregation are revealed in ERASE Racism's new study "LONG ISLAND FAIR HOUSING: A State of Inequity." The primary problem is that the very agencies charged with overcoming housing discrimination, enforcing fair housing laws and discouraging segregation in housing are doing little or nothing to ameliorate the racial patterns.

The study revealed that African American home seekers on the Island face systemic housing discrimination that affects black residents of all income levels. Integrated neighborhoods are central to improving the social, educational and economic status of African Americans. Without the leadership of our elected officials, fair housing on Long Island is doomed to stagnate and will continue to be plagued with the inequities and disadvantages that accompany segregated communities.

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## ERASE RACISM'S PARTNERSHIP FOR RACIAL EQUITY BECOME A PARTNER!

ERASE Racism is always eager to find people who believe in our mission. We are proud to introduce a new way for you to follow our progress and get involved in our work. Becoming a Partner is free.

As a Partner for Racial Equity, you will receive:

- Updates on our work and upcoming events
- The latest news and trends relating to race & racial equity
- Invitations to forums and events that will provide opportunities for you to engage in dialogue, connect for action, and effect change.

**Yes!** I am interested in supporting ERASE Racism as a Partner for Racial Equity.

Mail to: ERASE Racism  
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Fax: (516)921-4866  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Visit our website** at [www.eraseracismny.org](http://www.eraseracismny.org) for the latest news and events.

**You can support our work** by making a contribution to ERASE Racism via our website or by mail.

**Did You Know?** ERASE Racism has a new way for supporters to get connected—our Partnership for Racial Equity! See the back cover for details.

**See the insert** for a special report on *A Common Thread: Celebrating People of the African Diaspora*, our successful, inaugural fundraising event.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**LONG ISLAND FAIR HOUSING:  
A STATE OF INEQUITY**  
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ERASE Racism's major findings on the state of fair housing on Long Island, based on race are:

1. Inefficient and lethargic fair housing enforcement systems fail to effectively serve all people.
2. Housing discrimination is not deterred by the current enforcement system.
3. Realtors are perpetuating segregation by steering.
4. No accurate numbers of racial discrimination in housing incidents for Long Island exist.
5. Government enforcement agencies mandated to ensure fair housing often impede the development of integrated housing and the enforcement of fair housing.
6. There is a lack of leadership and accountability for fair housing enforcement and also for promoting integration.

ERASE Racism does not simply outline the problem. The fair housing report contains recommendations to improve the processing of fair housing complaints, the modification of Nassau and Suffolk Counties' fair housing laws, the enforcement of fair housing laws, and realtors' practices and treatment of home and apartment seekers. It also deals with the promotion of integrated communities. ERASE Racism has commenced taking steps to implement some of the recommendations in the fair housing report—29 in total—and plans to continue working collaboratively with the government, business community, and nonprofit organizations to advance the ERASE Racism Fair Housing Initiative.

*To follow our progress, please visit our website at [www.eraseracismny.org](http://www.eraseracismny.org) and follow the link to the new Fair Housing page.*

**ERASE RACISM  
COMPLETES CULTURAL COMPETENCY REPORT**

To eliminate long-standing disparities in the health status of people of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has established National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health Care. In 2004, a broad-based coalition of health care providers, social service agencies, and community-based organizations joined forces to form the Nassau Partnership for Healthy Communities (NPHC) to address health care disparities in eight high-risk zip codes. Under the initiation of the North-Shore-Long Island Jewish Health Systems, NPHC was launched to increase access to services and to improve health outcomes for patients. ERASE Racism led a collaborative effort to create a NPHC Cultural Competency Self-Assessment tool for health care institutions, analyzed the survey results, and produced and presented a report for the steering committee of NPHC. The committee praised the report, saying that ERASE Racism had led a useful process and a created a helpful tool that has spurred additional assessment activities and changes to policies.

**NOTE  
FROM  
THE  
PRESIDENT**



Welcome to this inaugural edition of *Emerge: The Racial Equity Review*—ERASE Racism's newsletter about research, trends, and our work. ERASE Racism, now four years old, is a catalyst for institutional, structural and policy changes that challenge racial segregation and promote racial equity in civil society and within specific institutions. ERASE Racism was launched because the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF) believed that even though few people talked about racism, it was a real problem for the region. I was hired to construct an initiative that would foster a dialogue about racism and develop some activities to address it. As originally planned, in 2004 ERASE Racism became an independent not-for-profit organization. One year later, we are pleased to spotlight our successful inaugural fundraiser: *A Common Thread: Celebrating People of the African Diaspora*. Also, in this edition of *Emerge*, we have spotlighted our work in promoting fair housing: "*Long Island Fair Housing: A State of Inequity*." Dismantling institutional and structural racism is challenging work, but we are committed to this daunting task. On behalf of the board and staff of ERASE Racism, welcome to *Emerge*. We hope you will send us your comments and suggestions for future issues.

*Elaine Gross*

**MOVING ON WITH  
THE FAIR HOUSING  
AGENDA**

Since the release of the fair housing report, ERASE Racism has already taken the first steps toward putting the recommendations into action, partnering with influential leaders on Long Island and throughout New York State:

- ERASE Racism has been working collaboratively with both **Nassau and Suffolk County Attorneys** to strengthen fair housing laws. In conjunction with the **Anti-Discrimination Center of Metro New York**, ERASE Racism has proposed revisions to Nassau and Suffolk County fair housing laws
- On June 7th, at the request of County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi, ERASE Racism facilitated a meeting with representatives of the **federal, state and county fair housing enforcement agencies and County Executives Tom Suozzi and Steve Levy** around fair housing issues.
- As a result of the report, one of the largest **real estate agencies** on Long Island contacted ERASE Racism to work collaboratively with its corporate office. ERASE Racism will be providing strategies for training agents and recommendations for steps to eradicate racial steering.

ERASE Racism looks forward to keeping you informed about our fair housing progress through our newsletter and our website. If you have any questions, you may contact us directly through our website at [www.eraseracismny.org](http://www.eraseracismny.org).

**The New York Times**  
*Long Island Has Failed to Stem Segregation,  
a Group Charges*

**LI's top pols vow  
to clean housing**  
**Newsday**  
**Report: LI  
segregation  
unchecked**  
**Putting a Face on Housing Bias Patterns**

**ERASE RACISM'S REPORT  
TAKES THE MEDIA BY STORM**

The release of ERASE Racism's report on fair housing was a triumph in the media, with six printed articles (including two each from *Newsday* and the *New York Times*); two columns; three editorials; 15 television interviews and news segments; and four radio interviews and news segments.

One editorial writer said that the report was "meticulously" documented. Others made similar statements, making it evident that the scholarship and professionalism of the report captured the attention of the news agencies and impressed on them the need to report on the oft-neglected topics of racial segregation and discrimination. Moreover, all of the coverage of the report acknowledged the importance of ERASE Racism's findings and recommendations, and the editorials supported ERASE Racism's call for change.

The extensive news coverage of the report has also proved to be wonderful publicity for ERASE Racism itself, generating many new supporters of our work, requests for information, and requests for assistance from victims of housing discrimination. Victims of discrimination are referred to the appropriate legal and public agencies for help.

**WHAT INDIVIDUALS CAN DO  
TO SUPPORT FAIR HOUSING**

1. When seeking a home, ask your realty agent to show you all the homes in your price range, including those in integrated neighborhoods.
2. Question your realty agent as to why he/she is not bringing a diverse group of people to see your home, if all the potential clients seem to be the same race.
3. Encourage government officials to support fair housing principles and laws for all community development projects.
4. Speak out; do not remain silent when people make racially disparaging remarks or someone vandalizes a neighbor's home because of race.