



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Coronavirus, Disasters, Housing and Homelessness

Hosted by NLIHC and the
Disaster Housing Recovery Coalition
December 7, 2020

Agenda



Welcome & Introductions

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Capitol Hill Update

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Impact of COVID on Black Women

- Karma Cottman, Ujima – The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

New Report on Evictions & Barriers to Housing Opportunity

- Rasheedah Phillips, Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Field Updates

- Miranda Darden-Willems, Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition

Sign-On Letter to CDC to Extend, Improve, & Enforce Eviction Moratorium by December 15

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

www.nlihc.org

Welcome & Introductions



Sarah Saadian

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Capitol Hill Update



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Impact of COVID on Black Women



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COVID-19: The Impact on Black Survivors

Karma Cottman
NLIHC
December 7, 2020



The National Center on Violence Against
Women in the Black Community

MEANING

Ujima, pronounced oo-JEE-mah, is the third principle of Kwanzaa and means "collective work and responsibility".

DEFINITION OF BLACK COMMUNITY

As a part of the Black community we understand that by definition it is not absolute and we are not a monolithic people. There always have and always will be assumptions when speaking of and understanding the Black community. We seek to be fluid, inclusive and embracing in our understanding of this very special and sacred place.

We define the Black community into 4 subgroups: African, American, African/African Immigrant, Afro-Caribbean and Afro-Latina. This is not limiting, it is a broad start and our goal is to speak in support of all that define themselves as a part of this unique and beautiful space.

COLORS

Our colors are sunrise and cocoa.

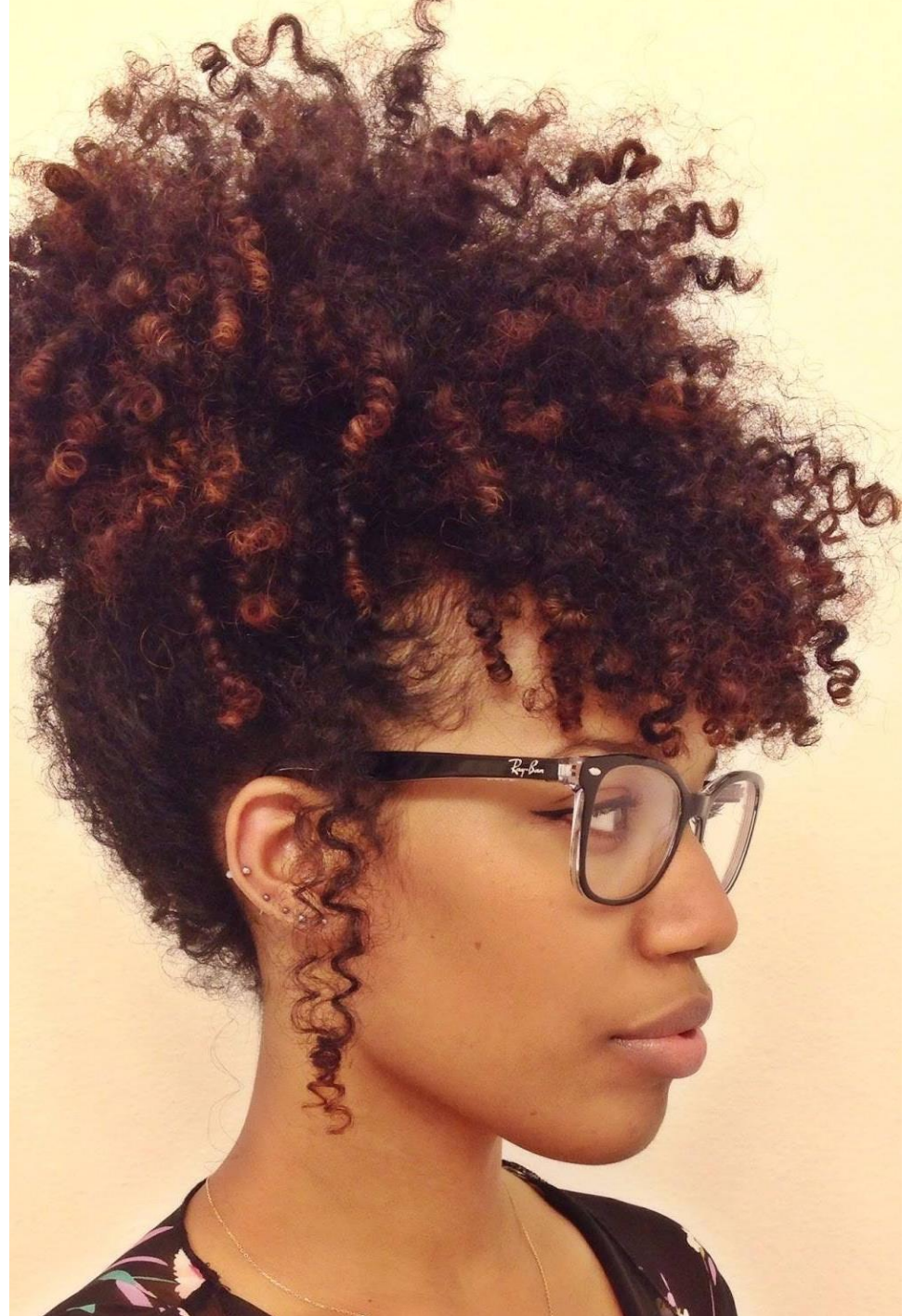
Sunrise for the live sustaining energy that is provided by the sun as it rises each day.

Cocoa for the rich variation in skin tone, texture and hues boldly worn and proudly adorned by women of the diaspora.



Areas of Focus

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Community Violence
- Institutional and Structural Violence





STRATEGIES

Public Policy

Research

Education & Outreach

Technical Assistance &
Training





POWER

Defining Our Work

OPPRESSION

COVID & Communities of Color

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 has also exacerbated the effect of domestic violence and sexual assault in Communities of Color:

- The increased isolation resulting from stay-at-home orders highlighted the unique challenges of addressing domestic violence and sexual assault within Communities of Color, who are often marginalized in systemic and service responses.
- Women of Color are overwhelmingly represented in essential service industry jobs such as restaurant, domestic, and janitorial services, which have higher vulnerability to sexual assault and ongoing risk to contracting the COVID-19 virus as the nation reopens.
- Lack of access to safe and affordable housing disparately impacts Women of Color survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who experience higher rates of homelessness as a result of the violence.
- Children and Youths of Color are at an increased risk for victimization and abuse as they continue to be “sheltered” in unhealthy home environments and have reduced access to safe childcare options and social supports.



Intersectionality =
Increased Vulnerability

- *Poverty
- *Housing
- *Health
- Disparities
- *Mental Health
- *Education
- *Criminal
Legal System

“The current culture of domination, exploitation, and extraction is manifested in multiple, intersecting systemic oppressions that create the conditions for gender violence.”



Structural & Institutional Violence

Racism
Sexism
Classism
Homophobia
Transphobia

Economic Access
Safe Housing
Industrial Prison
Complex
School to Prison
Pipeline



- People of color will be most hard hit by the expiration of federal aid: Forty-four percent of Black tenants and 41 percent of Latino tenants reported they had little or no confidence in their ability to pay rent.
- Evictions disproportionately affect Black women, according to American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) data. Their greater eviction rates are attributed to systemic discrimination that includes staggering pay disparities and wealth gaps.
- Additionally, Black renters were nearly twice as likely as white renters to have an eviction filed against them.



- The FBI has acknowledged the presence of racial bias in policing and sexual misconduct is in the top 3 of most common infractions by police.
- The rate of incarceration for Black women is still more than twice that of white women.
- Black women ages 18-19 are 5x as likely to be incarcerated as white women.
- Trans women of color are 67% of LGBTQ homicide victims.

COVID & Communities of Color

Our Collective Response:

- Important to acknowledge the link between long-standing historical inequities and impact of COVID.
- Addressing violence against women has to be a central component of our recovery.
- Ensure economic access, access to safe and affordable housing, health equity, & access to justice for **ALL** women.
-
- Analyze policies and increase access for sexual assault and domestic violence survivors of color and the orgs that serve them. CARES ACT, HEROES, Emergency Housing Protections and Relief Act of 2020



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Connect with us on Social Media!

New Report on Evictions & Barriers to Housing Opportunity



Rasheedah Phillips

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Breaking the Record: Dismantling the Barriers Eviction Records Place on Housing Opportunities



Presented by Rasheedah Phillips
Community Legal Services of Philadelphia

Breaking the Record: About the Report



- **Written in collaboration with tenant organizers impacted by eviction records**
- **Provides data on eviction records in Philadelphia, and who is most impacted by the long-term harms associated with open access to eviction records**
- **Advances three key recommendations for policymakers and local courts to adopt**
- **Highlights the issue of access to eviction records as one that disproportionately impacts Black and Latinx communities**

Breaking the Record: Key Finding #1

- Eviction records are a race and gender justice issue in Philadelphia and nationally, and the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly widened those disparities.
 - 56% of all eviction filings occur in majority-Black communities
 - 81% of all eviction filings occur in communities of color
 - 49% of eviction filings occurred in majority-Black communities during the pandemic
 - 78% of eviction filings occurred in communities of color during pandemic

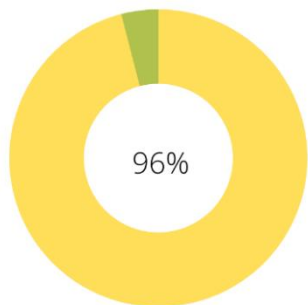


Breaking the Record: Key Finding #2

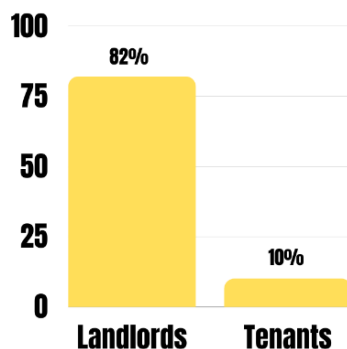
- Eviction records are easily accessible even in circumstances where a tenant has won their case, worked out an agreement, or where the landlord withdrew the case against the tenant.
 - *Over a quarter of Philadelphia eviction filings from 2015-2020 did not result in a judgment against a tenant. In these cases, the filing was withdrawn, or the tenant won their case. Even still, these tenants have a mark on their record that could prevent them from renting in the future.*
 - *All agreements made in Philadelphia Landlord-Tenant court are called Judgments by Agreement, meaning they automatically come with judgments against the tenant, and are accessible even when there are favorable terms, when a tenant fulfills an agreement by paying back rent or moving out, or if the agreement provides mutual responsibilities for landlord and tenant.*



96% OF JUDGMENTS HAPPEN AT THE FIRST HEARING

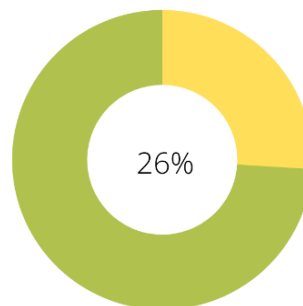


FEW TENANTS ARE REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEYS



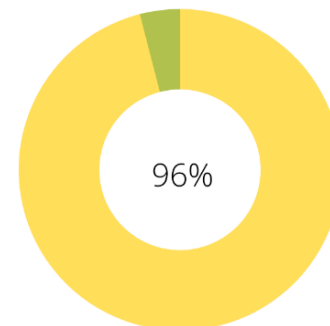
The power imbalance between landlords and tenants in court is severe. From 2015-2020, Landlords had an attorney in 82% of cases, compared to 10% of tenants.

MORE THAN 1/4 OF CASES DO NOT RESULT IN A JUDGMENT AGAINST TENANT



Over a quarter of filings from 2015-2020 did not result in a judgment against a tenant. In these cases, the filing was withdrawn or the tenant won their case. Even still, these tenants have a mark on their record that could prevent them from renting in the future.

96% OF JUDGMENTS HAPPEN AT THE FIRST HEARING



Almost all judgments against a tenant from 2015-2020 occurred at their first hearing date. Almost half of these are default judgments where the tenant was not present in court. Often, judgments are handed down after only a few minutes before judge or negotiating with landlords.

Breaking the Record: Key Finding #3

- Most tenants who show up to court do not have legal representation, while there are high rates of default judgments.
- *Often tenants have not been served with notice of the court case, have difficulties accessing the court due to its location and the time court starts.*
- *Only 10% of tenants can access legal representation, whereas 82% of landlords have attorneys in court. Pro-se tenants are intimidated by and unfamiliar with the process that they agree to having judgments entered against them, requiring them to pay money they may not owe or get on a payment schedule they cannot afford.*



Breaking the Record: Key Finding #4

- Landlords routinely rely on tenant screening companies , internet searches, and other methods to readily access tenant eviction records, refusing to rent to tenants with even one eviction filing on their record, regardless of the outcome of the case or other details that may offer additional context on a prospective tenant's past rental circumstances.

Breaking the Record: Key Recommendations

- Pass State Legislation for Sealing Records and Enact Other Court Policies that Seal or Restrict Access to Eviction Records
- Pass Local Protections Restricting the Use of Eviction Records in Rental Decisions and Banning the Use of Blanket Ban Policies
- Expand Agreement Options for Tenants in Landlord-Tenant Court and Implement Administrative Rules Limiting or Sealing Access to Eviction Filings



Field Updates



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Sign-On Letter to CDC to Extend, Improve & Enforce Eviction Moratorium by December 15



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**Sign your organization on by
December 15:**

<https://sforce.co/3lNPp9s>

www.nlihc.org

Resources

[Responding to Coronavirus
\(https://nlihc.org/responding-
coronavirus\)](https://nlihc.org/responding-coronavirus): Recommendations for
Congress

[Coronavirus and Housing/
Homelessness
\(https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-
housing-homelessness\)](https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-homelessness): National and
Local Updates