



San Antonio Housing Authority  
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# News Release

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## **HUD ASSISTANT SECRETARY GAUGES STATUS OF FAIR HOUSING IN SAN ANTONIO**

*Discusses With Stakeholders Fair Housing Issues Facing the Latino/Hispanic Community*

SAN ANTONIO – It has been 42 years since the *Fair Housing Act* was established following the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Although progress has been made, work remains to be done, according to John Trasviña, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

At the San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA), Trasviña met today with 30 representatives from elected offices, community and business leaders, service providers and other stakeholders for a roundtable discussion on fair housing issues facing the Latino/Hispanic community in South Texas.

“SAHA is very pleased to have the opportunity to host this important discussion with Assistant Secretary Trasviña on how we can better promote non-discrimination and ensure fair and equal housing opportunities for all San Antonians,” said Lourdes Castro Ramirez, SAHA President and CEO.

“It is important for me to be in San Antonio and to take the community’s values and concerns back to Washington so we can be aware of them when we make decisions,” says Trasviña.

Trasviña’s visit coincides with HUD’s celebration of Fair Housing month for April. HUD is working with communities and organizations across the country to increase the public’s awareness of their fair housing rights and highlighting the national commitment to end housing discrimination. The theme for this year’s activities, “Fair Housing in 2010: Time to Act,” reflects the urgent need to ensure fair housing.

*The Fair Housing Act* makes it illegal to discriminate in housing transactions based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, disability, or familial status. According to HUD, the agency and its partners in local and state governments receive over 10,000 complaints of housing discrimination every year.

Trasviña says, “More and more in 2010, we are working to develop policies and programs that go beyond individual cases of discrimination, to the more difficult systemic acts of discrimination that we see.”

Examples of discrimination that HUD has handled recently include housing accessibility for people who are disabled, families who are denied housing because they have children and interracial couples who have been evicted or harassed by landlords, among others. Assisting people facing foreclosure and examining patterns of lending discrimination is also a top priority for HUD.

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