

## **National Association of REALTORS® Code of Ethics Change**

### **A New Standard of Practice Under Article 10 Prohibiting Discriminatory Speech and Conduct**

The National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) Professional Standards Committee met on October 5, 2020 to consider recommendations from its Interpretations and Procedures Advisory Board on the Code of Ethics applicability to discriminatory speech and conduct. The final approval by the NAR Board of Directors came at their November 13, 2020 meeting.

The new approved Standard of Practice under Article 10 is Standard of Practice 10-5. ***REALTORS® must not use harassing speech, hate speech, epithets, or slurs based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity.***

### **Why Was NAR Looking at This Issue?**

During the social unrest throughout the nation in late spring and summer of 2020, NAR received an unprecedented number of complaints about REALTORS® posting discriminatory speech and conduct online, especially on social media. Local and state associations experienced a similar influx of these complaints. A local association of REALTORS® wrote to NAR President Vince Malta requesting that NAR consider the Code of Ethics' applicability to this type of speech and conduct. After review, per NAR, the rationale for the addition of Standard of Practice 10-5: Article 10 limited the applicability of the Code to real estate activities and transaction involving REALTORS®. As such, members could engage in conduct and speech that was discriminatory and abhorrent, but unless it could be tied to a real estate-related activity or transaction, Article 10 did not apply. **This revised policy expands applicability to all of a REALTORS®'s activities.**

As with any alleged Code violation, received by KBOR and forwarded to the Indiana Association of REALTORS® to facilitate, the ethics complaints alleging a violation of Article 10 as interpreted by Standard of Practice 10-5 will be processed consistent with the state association's professional standards enforcement process, which affords all parties a full and fair opportunity to present their case, defend themselves, provide evidence and witnesses, and be represented by counsel.

### **Additional Information on the New Standard of Practice**

For more information from NAR, including a very informative Question and Answer section, [click here](#).