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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GLENDALE APOLOGIZES FOR HISTORY OF WHITE SUPREMACIST ‘SUNDOWN’ LAWS

[GLENDALE, CA OCTOBER 2020] — The Housing Rights Center commends the historic decision by the city of Glendale to apologize for its history of racist exclusion and violence, and to take steps to combat the structural inequalities that persist today.

For much of the last century, Glendale functioned as a “sundown town,” where Black and Brown people were formally persecuted and excluded. Like thousands of all-white communities throughout the United States, the city not only banned Black residents through discriminatory property laws, but forced them to leave the area by sundown under threat of violence by police and organized white supremacists.

Glendale is one of about 100 California cities that are former sundown towns, but is the first in the state to issue a resolution acknowledging and apologizing for that violent history.

“Amid the ongoing uprisings against anti-Black violence, spurred by the police murders of George Floyd, Ahmoud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, Glendale’s resolution is an important and necessary step forward,” said HRC Executive Director Chancela Al-Mansour. “We look forward to seeing the city’s next steps toward redressing systemic racism, and hope other cities will be inspired to do the same.”

Glendale's resolution also commits the city to investigating how racism may continue to inform its hiring practices, housing policy, and policing today. It comes in response to committed organizing by the Coalition for an Anti-Racist Glendale, formed in June 2020 by community groups including Black in Glendale and YWCA Glendale. Read the City Council’s full resolution [here](#).

The Housing Rights Center is the nation’s largest non-profit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting housing discrimination. If you feel that you have been a victim of housing discrimination, call HRC’s Housing Rights Hotline at 1-800-477-5977 (TTY: 1-213-201-0867).

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The Housing Rights Center is a non-profit organization established in 1968 to actively support and promote equal opportunity and freedom of residence to all persons without regard to their race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, familial status, disability, marital status, ancestry, age, source of income, or other characteristics protected by law. The Center engages in activities – including outreach/education, investigation/testing and legal advocacy – to identify barriers to fair housing in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and to help counteract and eliminate discriminatory housing practices.

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