



MEDIA RELEASE

Landlord in FCCC Case Convicted by Court Thursday 8 October 2020

A landlord who was taken to court by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) for unconscionable conduct has been sentenced by the Court to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months in the sum of \$1,000.

Vijesh Chand pled guilty to one count of Unconscionable Conduct for advertising a rental premises on Facebook, specifying availability to “#indians_only”.

“I believe that justice has been served and I hope that this will deter others from discriminatory acts like this that seeks to deprive the right to housing,” said FCCC CEO, Joel Abraham.

“No Fijian should be prevented from being able to access a basic service like renting a place to live because of their ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or place of origin or otherwise - As stated in the Fijian constitution, no one has the right to discriminate against another on such grounds.”

“I would like to stress once again that FCCC will not tolerate cases like this and do everything possible to protect the rights of Fijian consumers. This is especially heinous when you consider how many Fijians are currently facing difficulties from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

This is the second case where FCCC has successfully prosecuted issues relating to discrimination.

The Court did not pursue the maximum punishment for this offence, which is a fine of \$10,000, after considering the submitted mitigation and as this was the first offence.

The defendant was charged as per section 76 of the FCCC Act 2010.

For more information/details on this please contact the FCCC at their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/FijianCCC/>, on their website: www.fccc.gov.fj or call 8921991.

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