

MORAL DILEMMA FOUR

In some neighborhoods there is an unwritten agreement between people not to sell or rent their homes to certain groups of people such as Jewish or Black people. One of the people in such a neighborhood decided to sell his home. He put an advertisement in the paper. A Black person responded to the advertisement and wanted to buy his home.

When the neighbors heard that a Black person wanted to buy the house, they were alarmed because they knew that if the Black family bought the house, it was likely that a lot of existing families would also want to move out of the neighborhood. There was a concern that if a number of existing families moved, that the housing values would drop in the neighborhood. In order to prevent this transaction, the neighbors got together and tried to prevent the owner from selling to the Black family.

- What should the owner of the house do? Why?
- What would be the right thing to do? Why?
- If the people in the neighborhood had evidence that the value of their house really would go down, should they be able to legally prevent a man from selling a house to a Black family? Why or Why not?
- If the man selling the house decided not to sell it to the Black family, should he legally be forced to sell the house to the Black family? Why or Why not?
- How could the people in the neighborhood keep their property values high without discriminating against people on racial or religious grounds/