

NATIONAL FORUM ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO HOUSING 2009

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2009

Time	Event	Room
12:30 -1:00	REGISTRATION	Gewirz 12
1:00 - 1:30	OPENING & WELCOME	Gewirz 12
	<p><i>Maria Foscarinis & Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty US Human Rights Network Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing</i></p>	
1:30- 5:00	NATIONAL TOWN HALL FORUM	Gewirz 12
	<p><i>Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing</i></p>	
5:00-7:00	FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING	Gewirz 12

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009

Time	Event	Room
8:30 -9:00	REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST	Gewirz 12
9:00 – 9:30	OPENING AND WELCOME ADDRESS	Gewirz 12
	<p><i>Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty Fred Karnas, Senior Advisor to Secretary Donovan, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development</i></p>	

9:30 - 10:55

OPENING PLENARY

Gewirz 12

Report on the Special Rapportuer on Adequate Housing Visit and Next Steps

Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Tiffany Gardner, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

J.R. Fleming, Coalition to Protect Public Housing/ Chicago Independent Human Rights Council

Rob Robinson, Picture the Homeless

Becky Dennison, Los Angeles Community Action Network

Sam Jackson, May Day New Orleans

This opening session will feature a report from each of the cities visited by the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing during her first official mission to the U.S. between October 23 and November 8, 2009. Panelists will discuss how they strategically and successfully used her visit to draw attention to some of their most pressing housing issues, and about steps we all can take to continue the growth of the movement for the human right to housing.

11:10 – 12:40	MORNING WORKSHOPS	
	Housing and Human Rights 101	Gewirz 12
	<i>Eric Tars & Jane Moisan, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i>	
	This workshop will provide an introduction to the essential features of the international human rights system and the human right to housing, and ways in which the human rights framework can serve as a tool in advocating for the rights of poor and homeless persons.	
	Intersectional Challenges in Access to Housing	200 McDonough
	<i>Tzili Mor, Georgetown University Law Center Lenora Lapidus, American Civil Liberties Union Brooke Kelley, National Positive Women’s Network Mellor Willie, National American Indian Housing Council Rich Hooks-Wayman, National Alliance to End</i>	

	<p><i>Homelessness</i> <i>Soraya Fatah, Georgetown University Law Center</i></p>	
	<p>Housing discrimination occurs on many bases – from race and gender, to national origin or health status, or any number of other forms. This panel will examine how discrimination occurs not just on these bases alone, but also how different forms of discrimination can intersect – for example race <i>and</i> gender – to present unique barriers to the equal enjoyment of rights. The panelists will draw out the similarities and differences in these experiences, and discuss the application of the human rights framework, which requires the government to guarantee the right to housing without discrimination, as a potential tool for addressing violations.</p>	
	<p>Advocating for Homeless Children’s Rights</p>	<p>110 McDonough</p>
	<p><i>Kelley Connolly, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> <i>Barbara Duffield, National Association for the Education of Homeless Children & Youth</i> <i>Chester Hartman, Poverty & Race Research Action Council</i></p> <p>Over 1.5 million children experience homelessness each year, impacting their physical and mental health, their educational opportunities, and their sense of community and stability. This panel will discuss some of the policies that result in hindering children’s access to housing and education, as well as some of the laws that can help protect those rights. In particular, participants will learn about the education provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which can serve as a model human rights law, providing substantive rights and mechanisms for enforcement, as well as other proposed legislation seeking to guarantee homeless children's rights.</p>	

12:45-1:45

LUNCH PLENARY

Gewirz 12

International, State, And Local Human Rights Advocacy

Frank McMillan *Participation and Practice of Rights Project (Northern Ireland)*

Doug Schenkelberg *Heartland Alliance for Human Rights*

& Human Needs
Max Rameau, Take Back the Land

This plenary session will feature advocates working for the human right to housing at the international, statewide, and local levels. Frank McMillan of the Participation and the Practice of Rights Project in North Belfast, Northern Ireland will discuss working with public housing residents to develop human rights standards for their community and how they are holding their government accountable to those standards. Doug Schenkelberg of the Heartland Alliance for Human Rights and Human Needs in Illinois will discuss their statewide “Poverty to Opportunity” Campaign and the use of human rights standards in a state commission on the eradication of poverty. Max Rameau of the Miami-based Take Back the Land campaign will discuss direct action to protect housing opportunities for families whose homes have been foreclosed upon.

1:50 – 3:20	AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS I	
	Combating Criminalization of Homelessness Using Human Rights	200 McDonough
	<p><i>Tulin Ozdeger, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> <i>Becky Dennison, LA Community Action Network</i> <i>Kirsten Clanton, Southern Legal Counsel</i></p> <p>Homeless persons in America are often dehumanized by policies that deny them their basic human right to shelter and criminalize their very right to exist in public places with dignity. This panel will discuss steps advocates are taking at the local and national level to combat criminalization of homelessness and encourage cities to take constructive steps to end homelessness, including using human rights mechanisms and arguments, in policy, courtroom advocacy, and efforts to raise public awareness.</p>	
	Domestic Violence and the Gender Component to the Human Right to Housing	141 McDonough
	<p><i>Sandra Park, American Civil Liberties Union, Women’s Rights Project</i> <i>Larisa Kofman, District Alliance for Safe Housing</i></p>	

	<p>Women experiencing domestic violence are subject to violations of their right to housing in particular ways due to their gender, Presenters in this workshop will provide an overview of the relationship between domestic violence and homelessness, and will discuss the related legal challenges and housing protections for victims of domestic violence. This session will include discussion of federal and local legal protections and steps groups are taking to ensure that domestic violence victims are part of a larger conversation about the human right to housing.</p>	
	<p>Preventing Homelessness – From Policy to Action</p>	<p>140 McDonough</p>
	<p><i>Catherine Bendor, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> <i>Jason Small, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty</i> <i>Rob Robinson, Picture the Homeless</i> <i>Jonathan Smith, Legal Aid DC</i> <i>Max Rameau, Take Back the Land</i></p>	
	<p>Homelessness has many complex and interacting causes that combine to deny the basic human right to housing to millions of Americans each year. This panel will discuss some of those forces, from lack of legal protections for renters in the context of foreclosure to the lack of affirmative obligations for states to ensure homes and apartments are available to those forced to live on the streets. Panelists will also discuss current campaigns to change these policies to ones that reflect a rights-based approach to housing.</p>	

3:30-5:00

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS II

The Human Right to Housing as a Component of Policy Advocacy

**201
McDonough**

Eric Tars, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
Michael Kane, National Alliance of HUD Tenants
Doug Schenkelberg, Heartland Alliance for Human Rights & Human Needs
Andy Silver, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

The human rights framework offers an additional set of tools for advocates promoting access to affordable,

adequate housing in the U.S. This panel will examine current campaigns at the international, national, state, and local levels that incorporate human rights arguments into their advocacy strategy. Panelists will discuss strategic and practical considerations in adopting a rights-based approach to housing advocacy.

Health Care is a Human Right

**203
McDonough**

Barbara DiPietro, National Health Care for the Homeless Coalition

Becky Dennison, LA Community Action Network

Lauren Nussbaum, National AIDS Housing Coalition

Whether or not this country believes health care is a human right at the heart of the current political debate about a national health care plan for all. This panel will discuss grassroots outreach and policy advocacy at the federal, state, and local levels to promote rights-based approaches at the intersection of housing and healthcare for our most vulnerable residents.

Development-based Evictions and the Human Right to Housing

**140
McDonough**

Tiffany Gardner, National Economic & Social Rights Initiative

*J.R. Fleming, Coalition to Protect Public Housing/
Chicago Independent Human Rights Council/
National Campaign to Restore Housing Rights*

Cheri Honkala, Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

Ericka Sipp, Vice President, National Alliance of HUD Tenants Board

Poor people's right to the housing and community is often threatened by plans for economic development. The human rights approach offers a different vision for development, including the active participation of residents in designing their future, and, where such participation is denied, the ability to frame that denial as a human rights violation. Panelists will discuss their work to save public housing communities and poor neighborhoods from development schemes that do not take the current residents' needs and wishes into account, and explain the importance and use of a human rights approach

as an alternative framework.

5:15-6:00

CLOSING PLENARY

Gewirz 12

Next Steps in Advancing the Human Right to Housing
*Maria Foscarinis & Eric Tars, National Law Center on
Homelessness & Poverty*