



# HOMELESSNESS & THE SDGs

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We all know what homelessness is ...Right?



# PRESENTATION CONTENT

- DEFINING HOMELESSNESS
- SDGS AND HOMELESSNESS
- DISCUSSION POINTS



# DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

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# 15 million

Forcefully evicted every year

# 1.6 billion

Live in inadequate housing conditions worldwide

# 150 million

People estimated to be homeless worldwide

# 4.1 million

 homeless in the European Union alone

# 22 million

Displaced in average per year due to climate related events

# 883 million

People live in slums

“One of the most acute forms of material deprivation. Homelessness refers to the **inability** of people to enjoy a **permanent accommodation**”

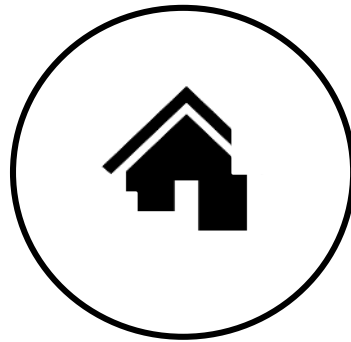
Homelessness can include many conditions, ranging from:

- “rough sleepers” (i.e. people sleeping rough on the street)
- living in inadequate or insufficient housing (e.g. in tents)

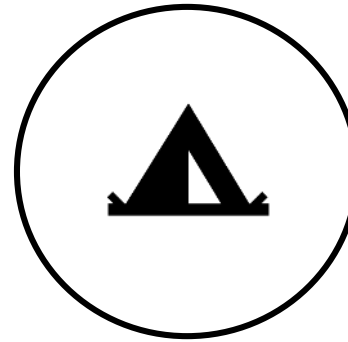
Different definitions of homelessness creates different perceptions and policy priorities



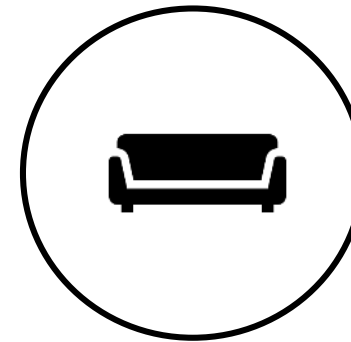
Street Homelessness /  
Rough Sleepers



Housing with  
inadequate conditions



Temporary /  
Emergency  
Accommodation



“Hidden” Homelessness

### Often being homeless means

Lacking other basic human rights such as the right to

- Work
- Health-care and
- Social security
- Privacy
- Education



It is both a **cause** and a **symptom** of **human rights** being denied, abused and violated.

It is one of the most visible and most severe symptoms of the **lack of respect for the right to adequate housing**



### **The Right to Adequate Housing contains these FREEDOMS**

- Protection against forced evictions and the arbitrary destruction and demolition of one's home;
- The right to be free from arbitrary interference with one's home, privacy and family;
- The right to choose one's residence, to determine where to live and to freedom of movement.

### **The Right to Adequate Housing contains these ENTLITLEMENTS**

- Security of tenure;
- Housing, land and property restitution;
- Equal and non-discriminatory access to adequate housing;
- Participation in housing-related decision-making at the national and community levels.

# DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

## THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING



### **Legal security of tenure**

Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats.

### **Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure**

Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage or refuse disposal.

### **Affordability**

Housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights.

### **Habitability**

Housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards.

# DEFINING HOMELESSNESS

## THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING



**Accessibility** Housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups are not taken into account.

**Location** Housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas.

**Cultural adequacy** Housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

## Defining homeless against inadequately housed

There is a difficulty to differentiate between those who are **homeless** and those who are **inadequately housed**.

Qualities	Slums	Informal settlements	Inadequate housing
Access to water	*	*	*
Access to sanitation	*	*	*
Sufficient living area, overcrowding	*		*
Structural quality, durability and location	*	*	*
Security of tenure	*	*	*
Affordability			*
Accessibility			*
Cultural adequacy			*



Defining homelessness as “**living in severely inadequate housing due to a lack of access to minimal acceptable housing**”.

An inclusive definition of homelessness should:

Mitigates the risk of **inequality, exclusion, and discriminating** against those who may need specialized assistance such as people living situations of **vulnerability** or slums or those facing **forced eviction**.

Realizes that the **right to adequate housing depends on the realization of other human rights** including right to decent work, health, social security and access to justice.



# SDGs & HOMELESSNESS

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International Covenant on  
Economic Social and Cultural Rights

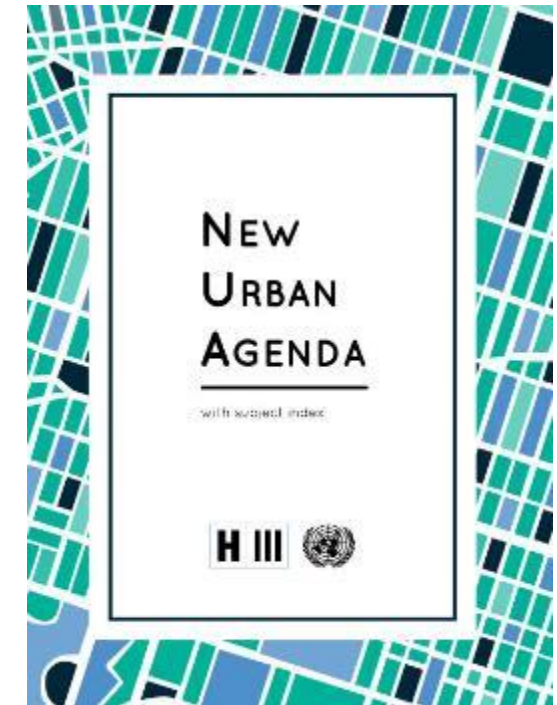
### Article 11 (ICESCR)

“1. The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize **the right of everyone to an adequate** standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and **housing.**”



A transformative commitment:

“We will take positive measures to improve the living conditions of homeless people with a view of facilitating their full participation in society and to **prevent and eliminate homelessness**, as well as to combat and eliminate its criminalization.” “We commit to promote national, sub-national, and local housing policies that support the progressive **realization of the right to adequate housing** for all.”





### **SDG 1.4**

By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, (...)

### **SDG 1.5**

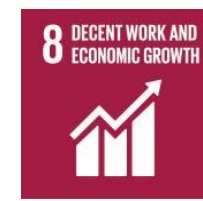
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

### **Indicator 1.4.1**

Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services

### **Indicator 1.5.1**

Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people



**SDG 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

### **Indicator 8.5.2**

Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities



**SDG 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

**SDG 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

**SDG 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality

**Indicator 10.2.1** Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities

**Indicator 10.3.1** Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

**Indicator 10.4.1**

Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers



### SDG 11.1

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

### Indicator 11.1.1

Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or **inadequate housing**



# DISCUSSION POINTS

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## An inclusive definition to guide social protection and housing policies

Housing is already part of the debate on **social protection**:

People experiencing street homelessness in every corner of the globe face negative outcomes related to **mortality, health, ability to earn a basic income** and other basic elements of survival.

## An inclusive definition to guide social protection and housing policies

### **An inclusive definition to housing should consider:**

- **The security domain** (security of tenure, exclusive occupation and affordability)
- **The physical domain:** sufficient quality of accommodation (durability, amenities, protection from weather, etc.) and quantity of accommodation (not severely overcrowded); and
- **The social domain:** ability to enjoy social relations, privacy, and safety.



## Addressing homelessness brings benefits in several sectors

The issue of homelessness jeopardizes many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A homeless person is highly at risk of suffering from **poverty, hunger, poor health, lack of access to education, clean water and sanitation**, furthermore, homelessness contributes to rising inequalities and preventing the growth of sustainable and inclusive cities.

## Addressing homelessness brings benefits in several sectors

By addressing homelessness, government can make big **improvements in several SDG** areas.



It also means that addressing homelessness through the lens of the SDGs, we have to use their interlinked nature to create inclusive policies.

Thank you!



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

