

**Forum:** Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee (GA3)  
**Issue:** The Right to Adequate Housing and Protection from Forcible Evictions  
**Student Officer:** John Glarentzos  
**Position:** Co-Chair

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates of GA3,

My name is John Glarentzos, I am 14 years old, and it is my true honor to be serving as your Co-Chair in this year's PSMUN GA3 committee.

I am currently a ninth-grader in Platon school. I joined the MUN world around a year ago and I have to admit it has been and still is genuinely a wonderful adventure. In my free time, my favorite activity is listening to music as it helps me relax while watching TV shows and movies is also one of my favorites. My hobbies however are a bit different. In more detail, I am particularly fascinated by 3D printing and generally 3D scale models. I am also intrigued by any projects related to astronomy and space exploration since my early childhood. Finally, I love flying drones and taking aerial pictures, as it is an easy way to see the world from above.

My first conference was last year's PSMUN, and I can't describe how much fun it was for me. Since then, I have attended three more conferences and I have to admit that each one was more special to me than the other. I sincerely hope that you will enjoy this year's conference as much as I did last year, and I can't wait to meet you all online

See you all in March for a fruitful debate.

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me at my e-mail: [glarentzos3@gmail.com](mailto:glarentzos3@gmail.com).

Kind regards,

John Glarentzos

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The right to adequate housing is a vital human right and it is considered to be under the umbrella of the right to an adequate standard of living. However, in many Member States, this right is simply not respected and, in many cases, even violated, through forcible evictions. Forcible evictions are typically the forced removal of an individual from their house against their will. Forced evictions can happen due to a variety of reasons and they have multiple consequences both in society as a whole and individually. Bearing in mind the COVID-19 pandemic, which has led to millions of people being forcibly evicted, as well as other recent events and crises worldwide, it is of utmost importance to address this issue to ensure that everyone around the world has an adequate shelter to live in.

Even though forced evictions are a known issue, according to worldwide stats the problem is far from being resolved. It has been noticed that worldwide forcible evictions percentages have been rising in the past few years and based on a world survey conducted in 2005, around 100 million people had been forcibly evicted during that year. It shall also be noted that this number is speculated to have reached 150 million today. Furthermore, other studies conducted in 2015 have shown that the number of people lacking adequate housing has grown to over 1.6 billion, close to 25% of the population. It is important to mention here that many nations haven't signed or ratified important documents regarding the right to adequate housing, and in some countries, it isn't properly recognized either.

There have been numerous treaties, resolutions, and other solutions and frameworks proposed by the UN and various other nations. However, the cooperation of all member states concerning the topic is far from ideal, thus preventing effective solutions from being implemented globally.

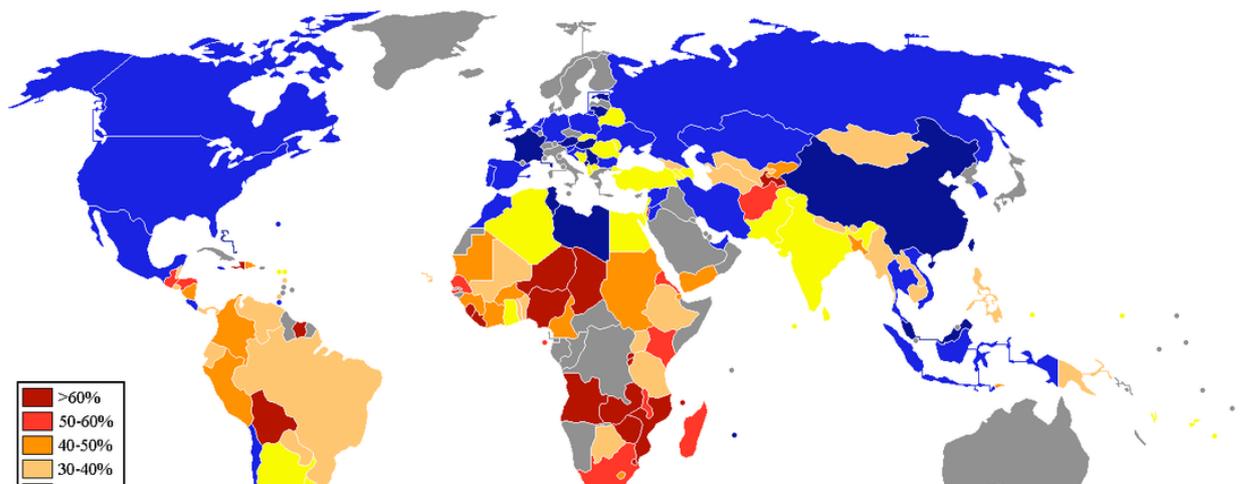


Figure 1: A map on homelessness rates globally as well as poverty in general. These homelessness percentages are largely due to forcible evictions

"History/Background." *Global Homelessness and Poverty*, [globalhomelessnessandpoverty.weebly.com/historybackground.html](http://globalhomelessnessandpoverty.weebly.com/historybackground.html).

Bearing in mind this year's conference on redefining modern solidarity, it needs to be stressed that the best solutions on this topic can only be implemented in unity. It is of paramount importance for all nations to join a global effort with common goals, namely ending forcible evictions and homelessness by promoting adequate housing worldwide. Seeing as the pandemic has affected individuals everywhere when it comes to adequate housing, it is necessary to ensure global collaboration during this difficult period.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Forced evictions

"Forced evictions can be broadly defined as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families, and/or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection." <sup>1</sup>

### Housing

Housing is effectively the houses people live in, as well as the conditions in which they live. Understanding this term is of utmost importance because, in order to achieve the implementation of the right to adequate housing, it is necessary to understand what the term housing consists of.

### Discrimination

The practice of behaving unfairly to people of different gender, nationality, beliefs, etc; Many people fall victim to gender, ethnic or religious discrimination, and their right to adequate housing is violated.

### Affordability

When we characterize something as affordable, it means that it is cheap enough for the majority of the population to be able to buy. The increasing affordability of housing, in general, is of vital importance to improve access to adequate housing<sup>2</sup>

### Human rights

A list of human rights everyone has during their entire life, decided by the UN. Those rights were firstly introduced in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and no one should be deprived of those rights regardless of their gender, nationality, etc<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Forced Evictions." *OHCHR*, [www.ohchr.org/en/issues/housing/pages/forcedevictions.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/housing/pages/forcedevictions.aspx).

<sup>2</sup> "Affordability." *Cambridge Dictionary*.  
<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/affordability>>.

<sup>3</sup> "Human Rights." *Cambridge Dictionary*.  
<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/human-rights>>.

### Security of tenure

The legal right to continue using a shelter (ex: a house) that is rented by the owner of that shelter. Ensuring that this legal right is implemented is the key to adequate housing.<sup>4</sup>

### Homelessness

The state of being without a home. Many people are considered homeless because they don't have access to adequate housing.<sup>5</sup>

### Poverty

The extreme lack of money. Poor people usually don't have access to adequate housing.

### Social Protection

Social protection is commonly understood as "all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized; with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups"<sup>6</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Forcible Evictions

There are millions of people worldwide who are forcibly evicted each year, with the majority of them staying homeless after the event, while some of them eventually suffer from social exclusion. Forced evictions are an urgent problem occurring in both More Economically Developed countries (MEDC's) and Less Economically Developed Nations (LEDC's), with communities around the world continuously stressing the problems rising by said evictions. Notable and infamous cases of forcible evictions were, the 2000 Nigerian evictions, when in July 2000, due to mass forcible evictions taking place, up to 1.000.000 million people were left homeless. Furthermore in 2004, New Delhi, the capital of India, suffered from 150.000 forcible evictions, leaving many people homeless. In Beijing, 300.000 people were forcibly evicted due to the preparations for the 2008 Summer Olympics. Needless to say, this is only a small portion of the forced evictions happening worldwide.

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<sup>4</sup> "Security of Tenure." *Cambridge Dictionary*.  
<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/security-of-tenure>>.

<sup>5</sup> "Homelessness." *Cambridge Dictionary*.<<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/homelessness>>.

<sup>6</sup> "What Is Social Protection?" *GSDRC*. 10 Sept. 2015. <<https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/social-protection-2/what-is-social-protection/>> .

However, forced evictions constitute severe violations of multiple human rights, including the right to adequate housing. This is due to several factors, ranging from the way evictions occur, to the severe consequences of those events. First of all, evictions usually do not guarantee the security of the victims, thus violating the right to security of the person. Furthermore, evictions usually occur through violent means, such as destruction of property or harassment and even blackmailing, thus violating the right to non-interference with privacy and the property right. The results of forcible evictions often include the disruption of children's education and lack of medical treatment, violating the right to education and the right to life. This is only a small percentage of the rights violated during forcible evictions, truly demonstrating the urgency of the problem

To better understand the nature of forced evictions, we need to take a closer look at the causes and the effects of such events.

### Causes of forcible evictions

Numerous causes prosper forcible evictions. First of all, most forced evictions occur due to the extreme development of infrastructure. In more detail, many properties are destroyed in order to allow for hospitals or other government buildings to be developed. Due to insufficient protocols and rushed development in such projects, people often end up being forcibly evicted from their homes without proper compensation or even resettlement. A recent example could be hospitals which, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, were in great demand, thus in multiple nations houses were torn down, just to create space for the construction of new hospital facilities.

In addition to the above, income inequality also constitutes a major issue linked to causing forced evictions. Due to extreme real estate prices, the ones who can easily afford to pay their rent, are the wealthy ones, yet in most cases, such people only make up for an extremely small percentage of the population, with the rest of the population making close to minimum wage. Therefore, the inability of said citizens to pay rent results in them being forcibly evicted from their houses.

Among others, it is also worth mentioning that political disputes can also lead to forced evictions, thus detrimentally affecting entire communities. It is a fact that political disputes often lead to division and inequality within a society, thus leading to discrimination when it comes to housing and forced evictions, which will be explained below.

### Forced evictions through the Olympics

There are numerous global events organized around the world that require a huge area of land for the infrastructure necessary to be created. Therefore, in some cases, the need for land often results in the confiscation of property which is later demolished to be replaced by said infrastructure. Among the property confiscated, is a huge number of houses and shelters which, to be demolished, result inevitably in

many forcible evictions, which often occur without proper measures and in a huge rush.

Although an improvement has been made over the years, there hasn't been a sufficient number of measures applied to prevent those evictions. For example, in the 2008 Beijing Olympics around 1.5 million were forcibly evicted, the majority of which were not properly resettled. Even though there were multiple legal cases on the matter, problems weren't properly resolved to see as both the 2012 and 2016 Olympics in Rio resulted in many violations of the right to adequate housing, with thousands of forcible evictions occurring.

This of course had a huge impact on the society of the countries which hosted the said Olympic Games. Several displaced people suddenly faced the problem of reintegration into society. Furthermore, homelessness rates increased rapidly and in general, there were thousands of people traumatized, unable to reconstruct their life, both socially and financially.

### Effects of forcible evictions

The effects of forced evictions can range and solely depend on both the financial situation and social status of each individual. In general, however, forced eviction is a traumatic experience for most victims, which as a result can lead to psychological problems. The reason behind this is that forced evictions usually condone the use of different types of violence, harming the evicted victims, which are often not offered the appropriate support to recover from such a significant event.

One of the most immediate effects of forcible evictions is homelessness. Moreover, the majority of people being forcibly evicted, are suddenly left without adequate shelter available. This is largely due to economic reasons. Due to the lack of affordability in housing, the majority of people evicted are unable to secure another adequate shelter. Although there have been some solutions proposed to this issue, including resettlement compensation or guarantees of an adequate shelter, they simply aren't implemented sufficiently. As a result, most victims of forced evictions, end up in the streets if they are not provided proper resettlement support.

Furthermore, even if there is compensation necessary for resettlement, the economic losses of the victims are not insignificant. The majority of forced evictions result in property loss, with many properties having a significant value that isn't returned to their owners. Sometimes, the value of the properties is exploited towards the benefit of those exercising the evictions, thus promoting social inequality, and severely harming the owners of said properties economically. Finally, it is also worth mentioning that most social networks are destroyed.

### Destruction of social networks

Social networks define the total of all relationships, personal or professional, of an individual. They are truly important to modern-day society, and they vary from person to person. However, the destruction of those networks is also a detrimental result of forced evictions. In more detail, people being forcibly evicted suddenly lose a lot of

social bonds they had, in addition to having to face serious problems like finding a shelter. It is also worth mentioning that they are often marginalized from their current social relationships, due to their new social status.

Even after the victims find some form of resettlement, people still seem to find trouble reintegrating themselves back to society and restructuring their social network. The fact that they are homeless stigmatizes them and renders them victims of social discrimination. Finding an escape to this problem is not an easy task for them and the clear lack of support by governments for people without shelter only impedes the amelioration of the situation. Strengthening reintegration efforts is the key if we wish to minimize the negative effects of forced evictions.

### Housing Discrimination

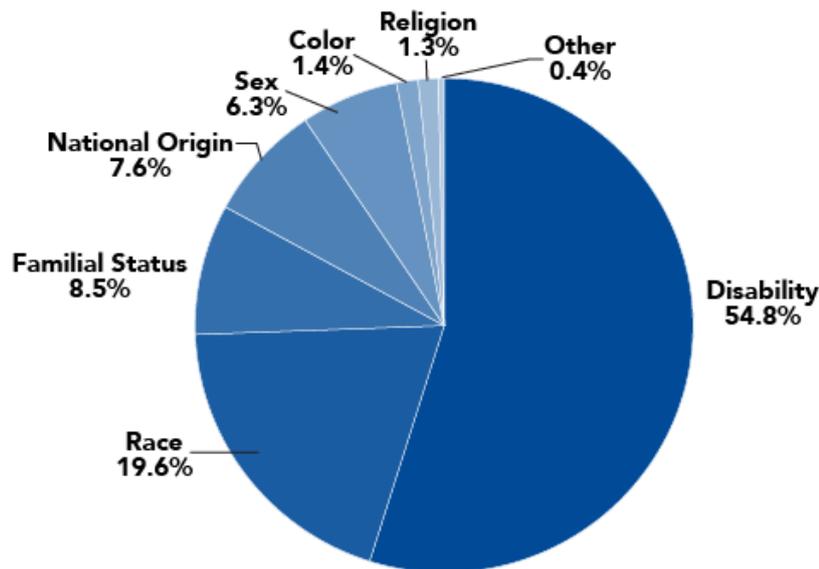
Discrimination often plays an instrumental role in the violation of an individual's right to adequate housing. Racial, Religious, or even Ethnical minorities have often suffered from discrimination, and oppressive regimes. In more detail, they are often subjected to discriminatory and unfair housing laws, including unreasonable policies and unjustifiable measures.

Furthermore, discrimination in housing also results in the exploitation of the victims. Said exploitation can take many different forms, from elevated rents to unfair contracts, it is appropriate to say that victims of housing discrimination are treated differently in comparison to the rest of society when it comes to housing. Unfortunately, there are not sufficient measures to prevent exploitation and this is the reason behind the number of people being currently exploited by landowners in their effort to find housing.

Another problem is the abnormally high prices which do not correspond to the entire population. Looking further into the topic, we realize that lack of affordability is a key issue when it comes to housing, and it promotes discrimination to a great extent. More marginalized groups usually do not have the same economic comfort as other groups of the community, which prevents them from being able to afford adequate shelters as easily as everyone else. This has led to the creation of stereotypes marginalizing groups that can't afford to house. Therefore, even people that come from said marginalized groups but still can afford a house aren't trusted by the landowners, thus making it more difficult for them to secure adequate shelter.

It is also worth mentioning that such people are often excluded from their housing benefits while the security of tenure is rarely offered to them. Equality in decision-making is almost non-existent in a lot of member states when it comes to minorities whilst a distinct lack of safeguarding from discriminatory behavior from other private companies, regarding said minorities, can be noticed. It is therefore vital to understand how different minorities suffer subjectively from discrimination if we wish to tackle the issue at hand.

## 2016 Housing Discrimination Complaints by Class



Source: National Fair Housing Alliance. (2017).

Figure 2: A picture showing the main types of housing discrimination during 2016

“Most Housing Discrimination Complaints Related to Disabilities and Race.” National Low Income Housing Coalition, 1 May 2017, [nlihc.org/resource/most-housing-discrimination-complaints-related-disabilities-and-race](http://nlihc.org/resource/most-housing-discrimination-complaints-related-disabilities-and-race).

### Effects on women

Women, because of their gender, often suffer from many types of discrimination when it comes to housing. For example, a huge number of housing policies effective today fail to consider how vulnerable women are, especially concerning gender-based violence (GBV). Furthermore, women face a severe lack of security of tenure. Tenure is, at the majority of the time, registered to their husbands, fathers, or other means in general, meaning that they are under constant threat of homelessness and exploitation.

### Effects on people with Disabilities

Millions worldwide suffer from some sort of disability, with the majority of them living in LEDC's. With most having extreme difficulties concerning housing. More certainly, the majority of housing-related facilities are designed almost completely for people without disabilities, hence accessibility is a key issue for people with disabilities, especially the more elderly ones. Furthermore, people with disabilities suffer from continued stigmatization and discrimination when it comes to housing since they are often treated unfairly by landowners who don't hesitate to seize the opportunity to exploit them.

Moreover, people with mental disabilities often aren't fully capable of understanding their legal freedom and rights, meaning that creating contracts and finding adequate shelter through complicated legal means is. Therefore, they frequently have to rely on

less legal means to ensure adequate housing, means that are often unfair for them and increase their vulnerability concerning forced evictions.

### Effects on refugees

Refugees are a particular group that has extensively suffered from discrimination when it comes to housing. In more detail, refugees often face xenophobia and racism, thus many landowners simply intend to exploit the vulnerability of such people, by either financially exploiting them or offering them extremely questionable contracts. They are usually denied housing because of their identity, hence at times finding a place to live and reside in is no easy task for refugees.

As a result, refugees often end up living in overcrowded refugee camps. In those camps, access to basic needs is not a guarantee while overcrowding and other major health issues are prevalent. Residents can often suffer from various types of violence and mistreatment by staff members or even other people. However, because they are refugees, they don't have many alternatives, meaning that they are stuck inside these camps, living in those horrible conditions, without any other choices.

### Effects on large families

Large families are another special group which, may not be facing the same amount of discrimination as others, yet they still face some severe problems in finding adequate shelter. In more detail, they aren't usually preferred by landlords, seeing that the size of those families is often related to a potential disability to pay rent due to the huge expenses of those families. Therefore, they face severe challenges when looking for adequate housing which corresponds to the size of the family. As a consequence, they often end up living in shelters that cannot be characterized as adequate and certainly do not fit the requirements for large families to live in.

### The right to adequate housing

The right to adequate housing was recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It states that everyone should be able to enjoy protection against forced evictions and the demolition of their property. In addition to the above, it also stated that everyone should have the freedom to be independent of authoritarian interference with their home, property, and privacy. It also mentioned that the independent choice of residence and the location of said residence is of equal importance as well.

For a certain shelter to be considered adequate, there must be some requirements met that constitute the basic housing needs anyone might find useful:

### Security of Tenure

For housing to be considered adequate, its residents should have a certain degree of security of tenure. That means that every resident who is offered guaranteed protection from forcible evictions, harassment, or other problems is considered to benefit from adequate housing.

In many cases, however, the security of tenure is being ignored, leading to many forced evictions. In more detail, when there is no security of tenure, residents do not have any sort of active protection against being rapidly evicted from their properties. This could happen for a variety of reasons, with the most prominent one being improper and inadequate shelters in general. In more informal and poor houses, the security of tenure is often disregarded for economic reasons. Another possibility could be the fact that some houses aren't strictly legal, and thus the security of tenure is ignored since it is directly related to law enforcement.

### Availability of infrastructure

For a shelter to be considered adequate, it needs to have access to key basic services, crucial for survival. In more detail, every adequate shelter should have access to clean water and proper sanitation. Moreover, heating is a necessary element of an adequate shelter, while access to proper electricity and energy is also vital for the appropriate housing of an individual. Food and disposal storages are also of vital importance to an adequate house. Finally, for a housing unit to be considered adequate, it needs to offer protection from the elements of nature and other health hazards.

### Affordability

A key aspect of an affordable home is its affordability. In more detail, for a shelter to be considered adequate, it needs to be affordable for all income taxes, even for the low-income portion of the population, while still fulfilling all the other criteria mentioned above. In many nations, one of the main causes of homelessness is unaffordability so it is crucial to promote affordable shelters worldwide, to effectively tackle it.

### Location

An adequate shelter must not in any case be excluded from basic facilities and other services. In more detail, for housing to be considered adequate, it must have access to hospitals or medical facilities, while ensuring that employment opportunities still exist. Furthermore, access to schools or other children's facilities is necessary. Of course, if a shelter is situated in a polluted or even hazardous area, it cannot be considered adequate.

### Social Protection Systems

Social protection systems are a group of national and international intervention policies which aim at addressing some of the basic needs of households and individuals. Moreover, their course of action serves the protection of a minimum living standard and encourages the sustainable improvement of livelihood.

Social Protection systems offer social insurance to social minorities, one of them being people with disabilities, ethnic groups, and refugees, thus helping minimize their difficulties in housing. In addition to this, social care is often provided to the victims of discrimination, violence, and harassment, by providing refuge to the victims.

During the last few years, the concept of social protection systems has changed. People nowadays shift from individual systems to entire national social protection systems, which are supported by their governments. The reason behind this modern change is the improved organization and resource distribution, as well as better efficiency regarding solutions found to problems including forcible evictions.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### United States of America

The United States of America (USA) has not ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which is mentioned below. Furthermore, the right to adequate housing isn't believed to be recognized by the constitution of this state, hence as a result there is hardly any security of tenure. Discrimination in the USA is one of the most persistent problems, with many reports stating that people with disabilities, both mental and physical, suffer from housing discrimination. Finally, affordability is an important problem in the USA, seeing as families earning the minimum wage cannot easily afford a normal house and they often have to choose between housing and healthcare.

### Finland

Finland is one of the countries which have heavily advocated for the protection of the right to adequate housing, having one of the lowest homelessness rates globally. In more detail, this has been mainly achieved thanks to a revolutionary strategy, which reinforces cooperation between Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), cities, and the government itself, called "Housing First". Housing First principles that have been adopted by Finland include the national obligation to provide adequate housing to homeless people while Finland's legislation requests public authorities to work against the problem of homelessness. Another noteworthy step Finland has taken towards promoting adequate housing is its adoption of the Nordic tax system. This particular system allows for a portion of the taxes to be devoted to social programs for adequate housing. Finally, a major priority in Finland is the long-term effect of each solution and probably, that's one of the reasons for the country's success.

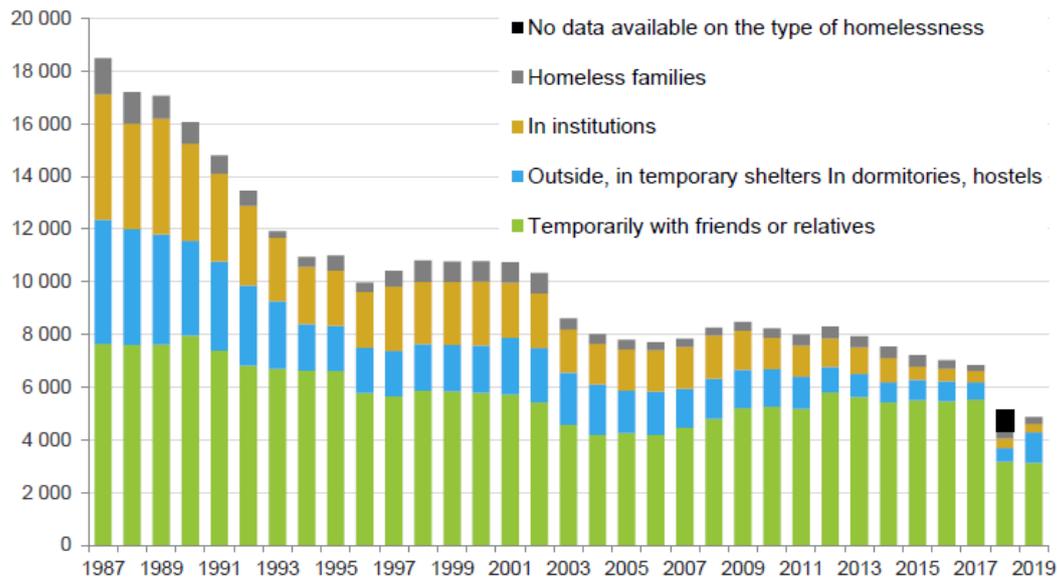


Figure 3: The extremely low homelessness rates of Finland

"Ara > Homelessness in Finland 2019." Ara > [www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness\\_reports/Homelessness\\_in\\_Finland\\_2019\(55546\)](http://www.ara.fi/en-US/Materials/Homelessness_reports/Homelessness_in_Finland_2019(55546)).

## United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is currently suffering from a housing crisis. In more detail, a significant percentage of people in Britain live in houses that can only be characterized as inadequate or even insecure. Furthermore, lack of affordability in the UK is a significant issue that leads to overcrowding in houses of poor quality. Another significant problem is wealth distribution. The truth is that wealth is not equally distributed in the UK, with the richest portion of the population receiving as much as 40% of the country's total income, at the same time the lowest class benefits from only 8%. This situation promotes discrimination between the different classes when it comes to housing and as a result, poorer people face a serious challenge finding adequate shelter as mentioned above. It is also worth noting that homelessness rates in Britain have been increasing during the last years, with approximately 400,000 people who are at risk of homelessness in 2019. Some efforts though have been made by Britain with the most important one by perhaps the section 21 notice. According to the 21 notice, landlords must warn their tenants at least 2 months before they evict them, and during the eviction, certain legal protocols must be applied to facilitate the process for the victims of the eviction. However, many violations of said legislation occur, proving that its current application is ineffective.

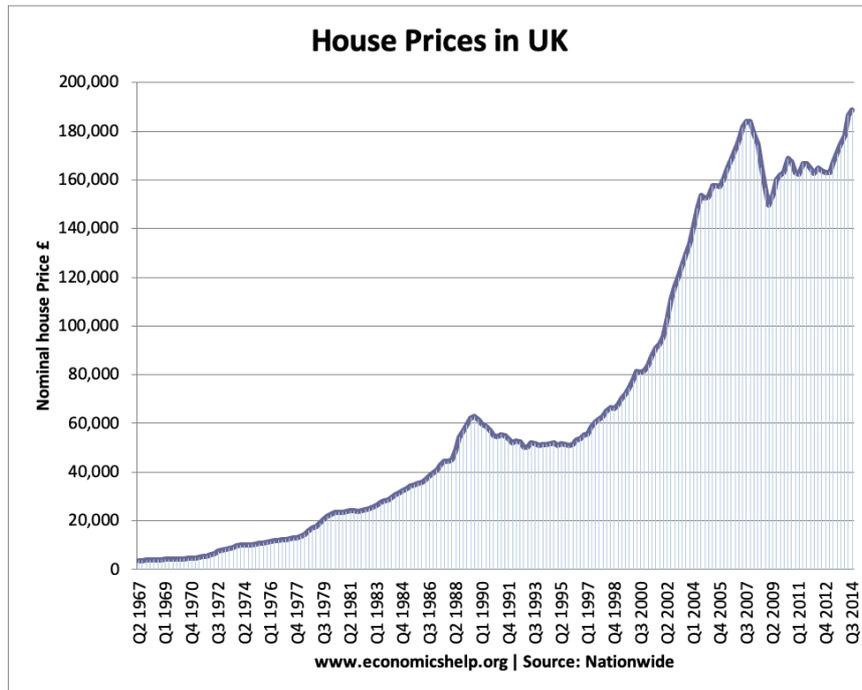


Figure 4: A chart showing the steep rise of housing prices in the UK

*"Do House Prices Double Every 10 Years in the UK?" Quora, [www.quora.com/Do-house-prices-double-every-10-years-in-the-UK](http://www.quora.com/Do-house-prices-double-every-10-years-in-the-UK).*

### United Nations Habitat (UN-Habitat)

The UN-Habitat is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote cities and towns, that are considered sustainable from both a social and an environmental aspect, to provide adequate shelter to everyone. The UN-Habitat works with various governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, and various other organizations to achieve better living conditions in the continuously evolving world we are living in today. The right to adequate housing is directly related to the mandate of this organization, since the UN-Habitat apart from acting in various ways, has released various factsheets on the right to adequate housing.

### Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a worldwide non-profit organization that aims to end human rights violations around the world. Amnesty International continuously conducts research, provides information and through well-organized campaigns, helps in achieving a future where no human rights are violated. This organization has worked thoroughly to resolve issues regarding adequate housing and protection from forcible evictions, by pointing out issues that every government should address.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date of Event	Description of event
10 December 1948	The Universal Declaration of human rights is adopted.
21 December 1965	The International Convention on the elimination of all types of racial discrimination is adopted. This convention battles one of the major issues connected directly with forcible evictions, discrimination.
16 December 1966	The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is signed, outlining a certain number of human rights that need to be implemented urgently and offering a course of action for countries to follow to ensure said implementation.
10 March 1993	The commission on Human rights resolution is adopted.
July 2000	Nearly 1,000,000 people are evicted in Nigeria.
Early 2004	Around 200,000 people are evicted in New Delhi and Kolkata.
2008	The Beijing Summer Olympics occur, and in preparation for those, hundreds of thousands of people lose their property with short and rather unlawful procedures.
2019	Britain is reported to have over 400,000 people homeless or at risk of homelessness.
December 2019	The COVID-19 virus makes its first appearance. This particular virus led to a global pandemic and millions of people being evicted for healthcare reasons worldwide.
July 2020	The Economic and Social Council resolution 2020/7 is adopted, presenting a large variety of solutions to forced evictions, from social and legal aspects.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

The United Nations has adopted several conventions and treaties to address the issue, with the majority of them proposing effective solutions to the issue at hand, while promoting worldwide cooperation to solve the issue. From the Universal Declaration of Human rights to thousands of resolutions adopted over the years, a truly valiant effort has been made to tackle this issue

### The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights<sup>7</sup>

The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is an international human rights treaty signed by 171 countries that serves the purpose of protecting some economic, social, or cultural rights, including the right to adequate housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966. By signing it, state parties have agreed to use all available resources, time, and money to achieve the proper implementation of the guidelines introduced in this treaty. In more detail, each nation that has signed this treaty has a responsibility to respect human rights and provide resources for the prevention of their violation. By doing that, they ensure the creation of an environment, where all human rights can be fully respected and protected. The commitment to this treaty of all signed parties is overseen by the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights.

### The International Convention on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination

This convention was adopted in 1965 and it is currently signed by 88 countries, ratified by 27 while having 182 parties. It makes four principal points:

- Any doctrine of racial differentiation or superiority is scientifically false, morally condemnable, socially unjust, and dangerous and has no justification in theory or practice.
- Racial discrimination -- and more so, government policies based on racial superiority or hatred -- violate fundamental human rights, endanger friendly relations among peoples, co-operation among nations, and international peace and security.
- Racial discrimination harms not only those who are its objects but also those who practice it.
- A world society free of racial segregation and discrimination, factors that create hatred and division, is a fundamental aim of the United Nations.<sup>8</sup>

All nations, which have ratified and signed this particular treaty are responsible for handing in reports to the UN regarding the particular convention, while they are also asked to submit every two years a more detailed report on the outline of their actions taken, combatting all forms of racial discrimination. The most recent report was the one submitted by the United Kingdom.

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<sup>7</sup> [https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1976/01/19760103%2009-57%20PM/Ch\\_IV\\_03.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1976/01/19760103%2009-57%20PM/Ch_IV_03.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> "Iv. Human Rights - United Nations Treaty Collection." Web. 6 Jan. 2022.  
<[https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1969/03/19690312%2008-49%20AM/Ch\\_IV\\_2p.pdf](https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1969/03/19690312%2008-49%20AM/Ch_IV_2p.pdf)>.

### Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/77

This resolution was adopted on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 1993 without a vote. It recognizes the negative effects of forcible evictions worldwide, stresses the importance of preventing forced evictions, and emphasizes the urgency of this issue, as it causes social and cultural conflict. It further proposes solutions to the issue, including legal actions for all nations regarding forced evictions, including immediate compensation to the victims of those evicted, as well as the guarantee of another adequate shelter.

### Economic and Social Council Resolution 2020/7

This particular resolution was adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2020 and it proposes various measures to be taken regarding the right to adequate housing and social protection systems. From recognizing all the negative aspects of homelessness and poverty to proposing solutions against discrimination and even providing social protection measures such as the introduction of social protection schemes, this resolution truly offers a complete summary of how the issue at hand could be resolved and delegates should draw ideas from it.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### Ensuring higher security of tenure

As mentioned before, many countries lack security of tenure to great extent. Therefore, the reinforcement of the security of tenure is necessary to protect people from forcible evictions and reduce homelessness rates. Member States could achieve these through the introduction of an improved legal framework addressing the issue or by working in collaboration with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to establish better communication between the government and the people.

### Promoting housing schemes

Welfare schemes constitute are aid programs devoted to the ones in need. Their primary purpose is to provide basic services to the ones who need them for a lower cost. Housing schemes, therefore, are responsible for providing families in need an adequate shelter at a significantly lower price. Supporting these schemes in any way, from raising awareness about them to implementing new legislation to support them financially, is crucial for providing adequate shelter to as many families as possible.

### Improvement of housing infrastructure for poorer populations

One of the main reasons behind growing homelessness percentages in various countries is the pure lack of affordability concerning housing. As mentioned above in the guide, low-income populations have had trouble finding adequate shelter in the majority of the world in the past few years. Therefore, it is vital to find a way to offer adequate shelter to those populations.

This could be achieved in numerous ways and delegates should take into their consideration all of them. Firstly, cooperation between worldwide non-governmental funding organizations, the UN, and member states could offer financial support for such a project.

Worldwide cooperation between nations themselves could also help provide an easier and more effective method of reducing prices for houses and shelters, and if that is not possible, finding an efficient way of mass-constructing adequate housing units for homeless people and poorer populations in general.

### Eliminating all kinds of discrimination hindering adequate housing

As mentioned before, discrimination is one of the major issues causing forced evictions, overall, it is one of the main obstacles we need to overcome if we truly wish to achieve adequate housing worldwide. It is therefore of vital importance to come with solutions to tackling it. From the cooperation between social protection organizations with the government to the introduction of effective housing infrastructure suitable for people with disabilities, there are many possible solutions to this very issue.

Working towards eliminating discrimination could also be achieved through re-evaluating current conventions to match current standards. The majority of the conventions mentioned previously were drafted more than 20 years ago, and it is possible re-evaluating them and adding new ideas to them could render them far more effective.

Another effective proposal would be the establishment of a monitoring and information unit, which would be responsible for providing data and further examining the issue, to paint a clearer picture of the situation and thus create more effective solutions. However, delegates should be very thorough when proposing this solution in their clauses seeing as data and privacy are very delicate issues that should not be ignored.

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