



WITHOUT WALLS

An exhibition of photographs
by women affected by
homelessness

1 - 14 October 2018
Passerelle
Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland



UNECE

Photographer: Ms. Hope Magraff

www.unece.org/housing.html

#cities4all

WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

Homelessness is the condition of people without a permanent dwelling as they are unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure and adequate housing. There is no universal definition of homelessness. Hence, the term may include people whose primary night-time residence is in a homeless shelter, a domestic violence shelter, long-term residence in a motel, a vehicle, squatting, cardboard boxes, a tent city, tarpaulins, shack/structures made of discarded building materials or other ad hoc housing situations.

Homelessness is an epidemic that affects developing and developed states. The last global survey on homelessness was conducted by the United Nations in 2005 in which over 100 million people were said to be homeless. Homelessness disproportionately affects vulnerable populations including women and children.



**Over 100 million people
around the globe may be
homeless***



**Approximately 2 % of the
global population is
homeless**



**1.6B i.e. 20% of the
world's population lack
adequate housing**

In 2017, the issue of homelessness reached a crisis point in all EU countries (except Finland). In the United States, the number of homeless people has increased for the first time since 2010 – approximately 554,000 people are homeless. At least 235, 000 Canadians experience homelessness every year. The level of homelessness in Russia and several CIS countries remains uncertain. it is estimated that in Moscow alone there are 8000-15,000 homeless.

UNECE'S ROLE

The UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management is committed to ensuring that decent, adequate, affordable and sustainable housing is available to all.

The Committee also supports the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, the Strategy for sustainable housing and urban development 2014-2020, and the Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development.

The Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing supports member States as they work to ensure the access to decent, affordable and healthy housing in the ECE region. The Charter specifically mentions the need to reduce homelessness by improving access to good quality, healthy and barrier-free housing for all. The Charter also places importance to gather data on homelessness using common international standards to ensure data comparability between member States; make these data and national statistics publicly available in order to support policy-making, research and economic development; and make use of global and regional data repositories to support the policy-making process.



The Committee also contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achievement of the housing, urban and land-related Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."

Due to the cross-cutting nature of housing, land administration and management, and urban development, the Committee also contributes to Sustainable Development Goals 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 15. Under Goal 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere", the Committee addresses the social dimension of sustainable housing and supports development of policies on housing affordability, energy poverty, social housing and low cost housing. Through the work of the Working party on Land Administration, the Committee promotes access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources in accordance with national laws.



WORLD HABITAT DAY

1 October 2018

Palais des Nations

Background:

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of every October as World Habitat Day. It was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/202, and was first celebrated in 1986. Each year, World Habitat Day aims to promote sustainable development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all. This World Habitat Day will focus on alleviating homelessness, especially for the vulnerable populations through the implementation of the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing, New Urban Agenda and 2030 Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals to provide adequate, affordable, decent and sustainable housing to all.

World Habitat Day 2018 is the occasion to raise awareness on the importance of ensuring that vulnerable populations, especially the homeless, are adequately housed. World Habitat Day celebrations consist of the following activities:

I. "Without Walls" Exhibition in association with Cafe Art

The exhibition highlights the need to alleviate homelessness through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing.

Cafe Art is a unique initiative showcasing artwork created by people affected by homelessness or are socially vulnerable based in London, United Kingdom. . Cafe Art exhibits the artwork of people attending art sessions run by London homeless sector organisations. Cafe Art is registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC), with all profits committed to building up the social enterprise. They find independent London cafes to hang and sell artwork in, with 80 percent of the proceeds going to the artists and 20% back into the project.

This exhibition focusses on women experiencing homelessness and illustrates the specific needs of women experiencing homelessness and why a gender-neutral approach often fails to support women. This exhibition aims to illustrate the link between Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable and Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Location: Passerelle, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Duration: 1 October 2018 - 21 October 2018 (3 weeks)

II. Exhibition Opening/Reception

Location: Building E, Passerelle, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Date & Time: 1:00 PM on 1 October 2018

Opening & Remarks:

Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary of the UNECE

Ms. Geraldine Crimmins, Artist/Photographer/Cafe Art Representative

Ms. Paula Mayock, Co-Director, Womens Homeless in Europe Network (WHEN)

Representative of UN Women/OHCHR



Organisers:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe: Committee on Housing and Land Management

Co-organisers:

- United Nations Office at Geneva

Prospective Partners:

- FEANTSA
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- UN Women

For more information, please contact:

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