

Provisional Concept Note
Voices from Cities: Addressing Homelessness to “House Our Future”
Wednesday, 06th November, 17:00 – Voices from Cities Room B

Event Model: Hybrid

Title of the Event: Addressing homelessness is key to “housing our future”

Event Summary:

Homelessness is the most extreme form of poverty and social exclusion, and it exists in every country world-wide. Local, national, and international institutional frameworks are only just beginning to specifically address homelessness as an important component of the right to adequate housing. Global crises like the pandemic, armed conflicts, and increased migration highlight the precarity of housing stability and underscore the need to specifically address homelessness in all its forms, from rough sleeping to temporary and crisis shelters to inadequate and insecure accommodation. Nearly every country that collects and reports data on street and sheltered homelessness has recently reported an increase in the number of people experiencing these two forms of homelessness. The Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and UN-Habitat have a long-standing collaboration to bring data, evidence-based practices, and policy on homelessness to the forefront of the global conversation around the right to adequate housing. This interactive event will feature voices from local, national, and international stakeholders that are all addressing homelessness within their context. Attendees will leave the session with specific ideas on how policymakers, providers, and everyday citizens from all sectors can take build capacity and take action to address homelessness.

The Ruff Institute of Global Homelessness (IGH) and UN-Habitat have a long-standing collaboration to bring data, evidence-based practice and policy on homelessness to the forefront of the global conversation around the right to adequate housing. Chaired by Baroness Louise Casey, peer in the House of Lords and former UK homelessness czar under UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, this interactive event will feature local, national, and global perspectives on how to effectively address homelessness.

Speakers will also address collaborative efforts that are already underway to address homelessness through regional and international lenses, and help more local and national stakeholders build capacity to address homelessness through data collection, policy frameworks, and the implementation of evidence-based best practices. Ample time for questions and answers, interventions from attendees, and dialogue between attendees and the panelists will conclude the session. Attendees will leave the session with specific ideas on how policymakers, providers, and everyday citizens from all sectors can take build capacity and take action to address homelessness.

Key Objectives:

- Attendees will understand how homelessness implicitly and explicitly sits within international rights frameworks and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Attendees will learn specific policy and programmatic approaches that are proven to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness
- Attendees will engage with diverse speakers including national government representatives, mayors, and philanthropic leaders through robust questions and answers and interventions from the floor
- Attendees will understand the challenges that remain in addressing local and global homelessness and specific actions that they can take to engage with current global, collaborative efforts on homelessness

Panelists:

Name	Title and Nature of Remarks
Baroness Louise Casey	Peer, UK House of Lords <i>Moderator, Remarks on global homelessness</i>
Shipra Nurang Suri (TBC)	Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat <i>Remarks on homelessness and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</i>
Claudette Fernandez	General Deputy Assistant Secretary U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) <i>Remarks on national homelessness</i>
Representative (TBC)	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Royal Thai Government <i>Remarks on national homelessness</i>
Pim Gregory	Homewards Director, The Royal Foundation <i>Remarks on philanthropic and business perspectives on homelessness</i>
Mayoral perspective (TBC)	<i>Remarks on local homelessness</i>

Questions about this Voices from Cities event can be directed to Lydia Stazen, lstazen@ighomelessness.org or +1 616 212 7369.