



TAKE ACTION ON THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

IF YOU HAVE

10
Minutes

- **Learn the Facts.** Read our fact sheet on the right to housing and then test your knowledge with our short quiz at www.discoverhumanrights.org/toolkit.html.
- **Donate.** Make a donation to an organization in your community working to promote housing rights. For ideas, check out the “Right to Housing National Resources” list in this toolkit.
- **Get the News.** Keep up-to-date on housing issues through list-servs and newsletters.
 - National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty www.nlchp.org/archive_newsletter.cfm
 - Assistance Council News www.ruralhome.org/signup.php
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness Newsletter www.endhomelessness.org/

IF YOU HAVE

A Few
Hours

- **Educate.** Download our PowerPoint presentation or select one of our lesson plans to teach about the right to housing at your school, community center, or faith community.
- **Share Housing Rights with Children.** Volunteer to read children’s books on housing and homelessness at your local library. Check out *DOTS* by Gary Ross and Anwar Morse, *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting, *Mr. Bow Tie* by Karen Barbour, and *Monkey Island* by Paula Fox.
- **Advocate for Policy Change.** Send a letter or email to your representative regarding current housing legislation. Check out these sites for information and advocacy ideas:
 - Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org/gov/take_action/default.aspx
 - National Low-Income Housing Coalition Action Alerts www.nlihc.org/template/index.cfm?Housing
 - National Coalition for the Homeless www.nationalhomeless.org/housing/index.html

IF YOU HAVE

A
Month

- **Start a Book Club.** Form a book club about housing and homelessness in America and facilitate a discussion about what you have learned. For book ideas, check out: http://homelessness.change.org/blog/view/10_must-reads or www.amazon.com/Top-Ten-Homeless-Books/lm/R2SFCE15C9HVDI/ref=cm_lm_dtpa_fvlm_cfa_11002-1328133-3672031.
- **Host a Film Screening.** Organize a film screening at your school, community center, or place of worship. Choose a film that focuses on the right to housing and the problems our society is facing today such as *Building on Faith: Making Poverty Housing History*, *Almost Home*, or *The Soloist*.
- **Build a House.** Volunteer with a Habitat for Humanity project in your community to help provide decent, affordable homes for those in need. Visit www.habitat.org.
- **Promote Accessibility.** Take a look at apartments, hotels, businesses, and stores in your community to evaluate their accessibility. If some are not accessible, suggest improvements the management could make. Check out www.ada.gov/civiccommonprobs.htm for common barriers to access.

IF YOU HAVE

A Year
or More

- **Volunteer at a Shelter.** Volunteer at a local homeless shelter that helps people transition into better housing conditions. You might help prepare or distribute meals, assist with childcare, stock donations, or just lend a sympathetic ear. Find a shelter in this directory: www.homelesshelterdirectory.org/
- **Join a Campaign.** Support organizations who are helping people stay in their homes or who are advocating for affordable housing. Check out the following campaigns:
 - ACORN - Stop Foreclosures Campaign or Home Defender Teams <http://acorn.org/index.php?id=1234>
 - The Campaign for Affordable Housing www.tcah.org/how_to_help.cfm
- **End Homelessness in Your Community.** Help your community identify effective permanent solutions to prevent and end homelessness. For a blueprint to follow, download the “Ten Essentials Toolkit” at www.endhomelessness.org/section/tools/essentials. For more information on organizing your community around housing issues, visit www.hud.gov/organizing/index.cfm.



RIGHT TO HOUSING NATIONAL RESOURCES



The Advocates for Human Rights

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

A leader in bringing international human rights to the classroom and the community. Provides educational resources and trainings to support the human rights movement in the United States.

ACORN

www.acorn.org/

The nation's largest community organization of low and moderate-income families. Campaigns for better housing, schools, neighborhood safety, health care, job conditions, and more.

The Campaign for Affordable Housing

www.tcah.org/

Dedicated to dispelling the negative stereotypes surrounding affordable housing. Promotes the benefits of affordable housing and acts as a clearinghouse for local and regional organizations.

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)

www.cohre.org/

The leading international organization campaigning for the protection of housing rights and the prevention of forced evictions.

Habitat for Humanity International

www.habitat.org/

Seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world, and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Housing Assistance Council

www.ruralhome.org/

Improves housing conditions for the rural poor and offers services to public, private, and non-profit organizations throughout the rural United States.

National Alliance to End Homelessness

www.naeh.org/

Analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, cost-effective policy solutions. Builds state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help homeless individuals and families make positive changes in their lives.

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

www.nchv.org/index.cfm

Dedicated to ending homelessness among U.S. veterans through shaping public policy and assisting service providers.

National Coalition for the Homeless

www.nationalhomeless.org/

A national network of people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, as well as advocates, service providers, and others committed to ending homelessness.

National Health Care for the Homeless Council

www.nhchc.org/

The Council helps bring about reform of the health care system to best serve the needs of people who are homeless. They work in alliance with others whose broader purpose is to eliminate homelessness and provide support to Council members.

National Housing Conference

www.nhc.org/

Advocates for policies and legislation that promote suitable housing in a safe, decent environment. Their Center for Housing Policy develops solutions through research to broaden understanding of the nation's housing challenges and to examine the impact of policies and programs developed to address housing needs.

National Housing Institute

www.nhi.org/

Dedicated to fostering decent, affordable housing and a vibrant community for everyone. Their research and advocacy promotes action on progressive, high-impact housing and community-development policies and practices.

National Law Centre on Homelessness and Poverty

www.nlchp.org/

Aims to address homelessness as a very visible manifestation of deeper causes, including the shortage of affordable housing, insufficient income, and inadequate social services.

National Low Income Housing Coalition

www.nlihc.org/

Dedicated solely to achieving socially just public policy that assures people with the lowest incomes in the United States have affordable and decent homes.

National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness

www.studentsagainsthunger.org/

Committed to ending hunger and homelessness in America by educating, engaging, and training students to directly meet individuals' needs while advocating for long-term solutions.

Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign

www.economichumanrights.org/index.shtml

Committed to uniting poor people across color lines to abolish poverty everywhere by promoting the economic human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

U.S. Human Rights Network Housing Caucus

www.ushrnetwork.org/issues/housing

Aims to use human rights law and strategies to address the severe housing crisis and inequity that exists in the US. The caucus is composed of groups representing public housing residents, lawyers, and grassroots advocates.