



International Union of Tenants
Consultative status in the UN ECOSOC
www.iut.nu

October 4 International Tenants' Day 2004 Affordable Housing for All!

- 1 billion people are poor and live without a home or in inferior and unworthy dwellings¹
- 108 000 people were registered homeless in London 2001²
- 3.5 million US families experience homelessness each year³
- 72 % of urban African citizens live in slums.⁴
- 500 000 living in temporary housing in France.⁵
- 50 % of the homeless in parts of Canada have jobs, but can not afford to rent or to buy.⁶
- 53 % of renter households in the US can not afford "affordable housing"⁷
- 82 % of Romani households in Romania do not have indoor toilets and 39 % sleep on earthen floors in their homes.⁸
- Every 7th household in Berlin is not able to pay their rent with their own income.⁹
- Polish landlords can evict any tenant in favour of a "close" relative

Following declarations have been signed by the respective governments

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948; Article 2:1 "Right to housing",
- Istanbul Declaration, 1996 article 9; We shall work to expand the supply of affordable housing..."
- The Habitat Agenda, article 68 "Promote the supply of affordable rental housing..."
- UN Millennium Declaration 2000; "By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers"

And many more declarations, conventions and ...promises.

Tenants everywhere fight high rents, discrimination and insecure tenure.

We, representatives of tenants, urge all governments to fulfil their obligations and to adopt the recommendations in the Tenants' Charter

¹ UN Habitat, ² www.statistics.gov.uk, ³ NAHT, USA 2003, UN Habitat, ⁴ Global Report 2003

⁵ Fondation Abbé Pierre / FEANTSA, ⁶ FEANTSA, Homeless in Europe 2004, ⁷ Shelterforce 2004,

⁸ World Bank / COHRE 2003, ⁹ Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa, 29.06.04