



*Consultative status with  
UN Economic and Social Council*

# International Union of Tenants

Box 7514  
SE-103 92 STOCKHOLM  
Sweden  
Tel: ++46 8 791 02 25  
Fax: ++46 8 20 43 44  
E-mail: [info@iut.nu](mailto:info@iut.nu)  
**Website: [www.iut.nu](http://www.iut.nu)**

Visitors address  
Norrandsgatan 7, 4th floor

**IUT-Secretariat:**  
President, Ms Elisabet Lönnngren, Sweden  
Vice President, Prof. Heinz Barta, Austria  
Secretary General, Mr Magnus Hammar

---

## Affordable Housing for All!

### Statement from the XVI Congress of the International Union of Tenants

Birmingham, England, August 8<sup>th</sup> 2004

- 1 billion people are poor and live without a home or in inferior and unworthy dwellings<sup>1</sup>
- 108 000 people were registered homeless in London 2001<sup>2</sup>
- 3.5 million US families experience homelessness each year<sup>3</sup>
- 72 % of urban African citizens live in slums.<sup>4</sup>
- 500 000 living in temporary housing in France.<sup>5</sup>
- Financial institutions most often do not provide mortgage loans to single and low-income women.
- 50 % of the homeless in parts of Canada have jobs, but can not afford to rent or to buy.<sup>6</sup>
- 53 % of renter households in the US can not afford “affordable housing”<sup>7</sup>
- 82 % of Romani households in Romania do not have indoor toilets and 39 % sleep on earthen floors in their homes.<sup>8</sup>

### **Dear governments, have you forgotten what you all have signed?**

- 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.

**... are you on your way...? Time flies!**

**Tenants everywhere fight high rents, discrimination and insecure tenure.**

---

## **We urge all governments to adopt the recommendations in the Tenants' Charter**

<sup>1</sup> UN Habitat, <sup>2</sup>www.statistics.gov.uk, <sup>3</sup>NAHT, USA 2003, UN Habitat, <sup>4</sup>Global Report 2003  
<sup>5</sup>Fondation Abbé Pierre / FEANTSA, <sup>6</sup>FEANTSA, Homeless in Europe 2004, <sup>7</sup>Shelterforce 2004,  
<sup>8</sup>World Bank / COHRE 2003