



United Nations
Human Rights

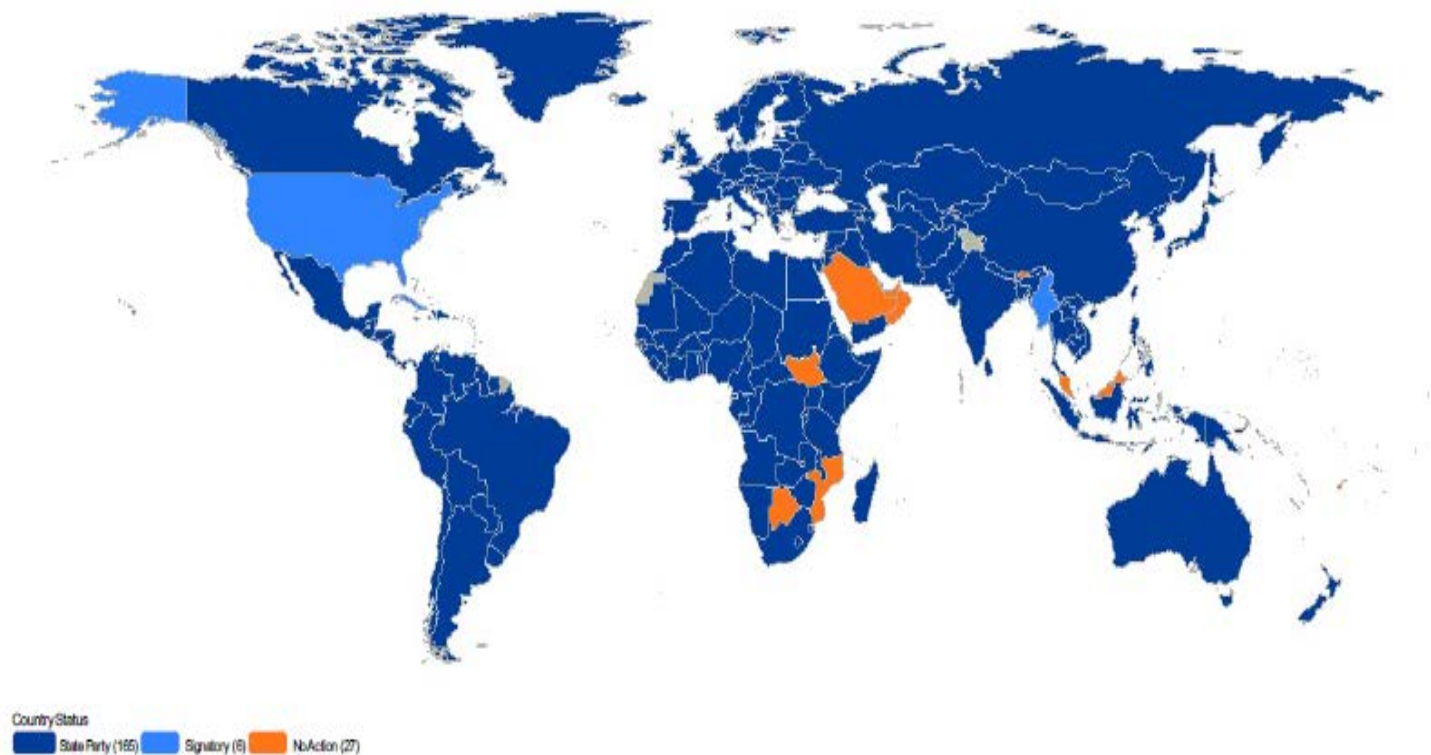
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING



The human right to adequate housing

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 11.1) recognizes the **right to adequate housing** as an integral part of the right to an adequate standard of living



This right and its various aspects are recognized in many other instruments, such as:

- ▶ **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**
- ▶ **Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)**
- ▶ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965)**
- ▶ **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)**
- ▶ **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)**
- ▶ **Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)**
- ▶ **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990)**
- ▶ **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)**
- ▶ **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2008)**

SECURITY OF TENURE

Regardless of the type of tenure,
all persons should possess a degree of
security of tenure which guarantees legal
protection against forced eviction,
harassment and other threats.

AFFORDABILITY

Personal or household financial
costs

associated with housing

should not threaten or compromise
the attainment and satisfaction of
other basic needs.

HABITABILITY

Adequate housing should provide for elements such as

- Adequate space
- Protection from cold, damp, heat, rain, wind or other threats to health, structural hazards, and disease vectors.

ACCESSIBILITY

The specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalized groups should be taken into account in laws, policies and programmes.

AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES, MATERIALS, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating and lighting, sanitation and washing facilities, means of food storage, refuse disposal, etc.

LOCATION

Adequate housing must allow access to employment options, health-care services, schools, child-care centres and other social facilities

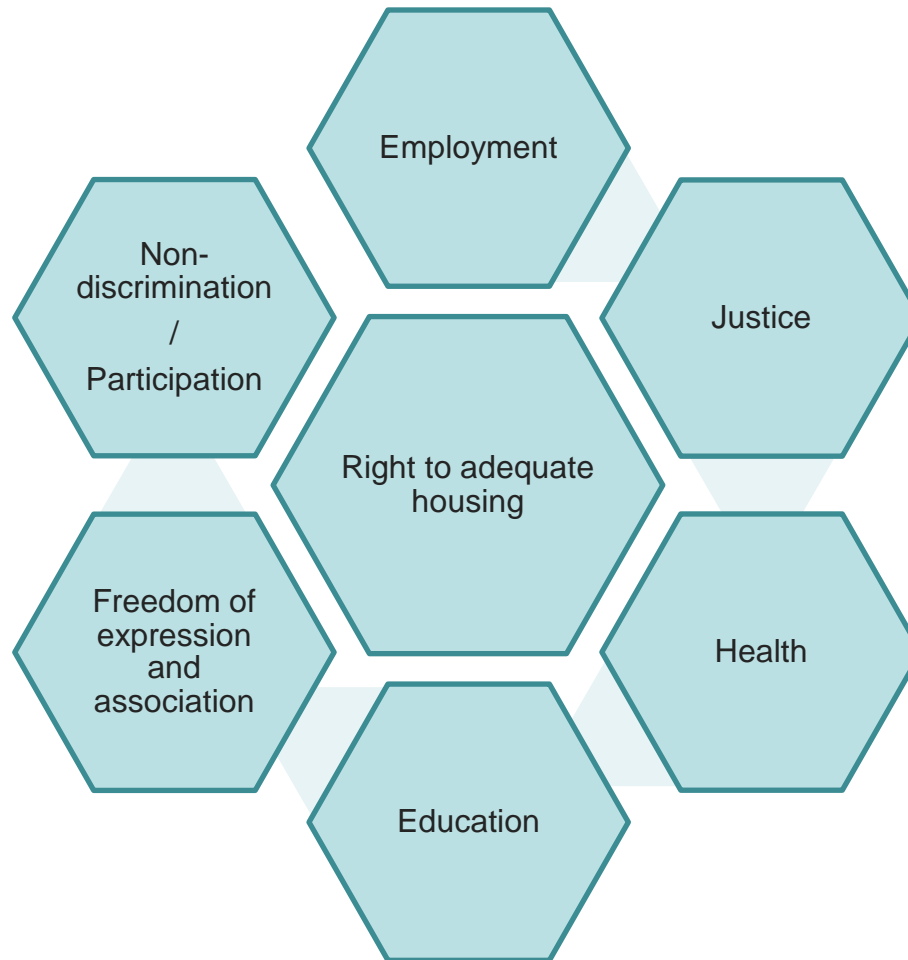
and

should not be built on polluted sites nor in immediate proximity to pollution sources

CULTURAL ADEQUACY

Adequate housing should respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

INTERDEPENDENCE OF RIGHTS



Human rights obligations

The Government has to:

Respect

Refrain from interfering with the enjoyment of the right

Protect

Prevent others from interfering with the enjoyment of the right

Fulfil

Adopt appropriate measures towards the full realization of the right

- The right to adequate housing means that each and every person has the right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity.
- How can this be achieved in «normal» times?
- How can it be achieved in times of crisis?

Thank you.

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