



# TAKE ACTION ON THE RIGHT TO HOUSING



GET INFORMED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OTHERS INTERESTED

10  
Minutes

IF YOU HAVE

- **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](http://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](http://www.nlchp.org/archive_newsletter.cfm)
  - Assistance Council News [www.ruralhome.org/component/content/article/169-sign-up](http://www.ruralhome.org/component/content/article/169-sign-up)
  - National Alliance to End Homelessness Newsletter [www.endhomelessness.org/](http://www.endhomelessness.org/)

A Few  
Hours

IF YOU HAVE

- **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](http://www.habitat.org/gov/take_action/default.aspx)
  - National Low-Income Housing Coalition Action Alerts [nlihc.org/involvement/act](http://nlihc.org/involvement/act)
  - National Coalition for the Homeless [www.nationalhomeless.org/advocacy/index.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/advocacy/index.html)

A  
Month

IF YOU HAVE

- **Start a Book Club.** Form a book club about housing and homelessness in America and facilitate a discussion. For book ideas, check out: [news.change.org/stories/10-must-reads](http://news.change.org/stories/10-must-reads).
- **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 *More Than a Roof*, a grassroots documentary film chronicling the first official mission of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing to the United States.
- **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](http://www.habitat.org).
- **Promote Accessibility.** Take a look at apartments, hotels, businesses, and stores in your community to evaluate their accessibility. Check out [www.ada.gov/civiccommonprobs.htm](http://www.ada.gov/civiccommonprobs.htm) for common barriers.
- **Take the Homeless Challenge.** Gain firsthand knowledge of the growing crisis and sensitize yourself with the realities and hardships of homelessness. Visit [www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/Homeless\\_Challenge\\_Project/index.html](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/projects/Homeless_Challenge_Project/index.html)

A Year  
or More

IF YOU HAVE

- **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.homelessshelterdirectory.org/](http://www.homelessshelterdirectory.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:
  - Campaign to End Child Homelessness [www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/index.php](http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/index.php)
  - Campaign to Restore National Housing Rights [restorehousingrights.org/](http://restorehousingrights.org/)
- **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” guide at [www.endhomelessness.org/section/solutions/ten\\_essentials](http://www.endhomelessness.org/section/solutions/ten_essentials). For more information on organizing your community around housing issues, visit [www.hud.gov/organizing/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/organizing/index.cfm).



# RIGHT TO HOUSING NATIONAL RESOURCES



## **The Advocates for Human Rights**

[www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://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.

## **Habitat for Humanity International**

[www.habitat.org/](http://www.habitat.org/)

Seeks to eliminate poverty and ensure that every man, woman and child should have a decent, safe and affordable place to live.

## **Housing Assistance Council**

[www.ruralhome.org/](http://www.ruralhome.org/)

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

## **National Alliance to End Homelessness**

[www.naeh.org/](http://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 Alliance of HUD Tenants**

[saveourhomes.org/](http://saveourhomes.org/)

A multi-cultural, tenant-controlled alliance of tenant organizations working together to preserve affordable housing, protect tenants' rights, and promote tenant ownership and control.

## **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**

[www.nchv.org/](http://www.nchv.org/)

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

## **National Coalition for the Homeless**

[www.nationalhomeless.org/](http://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 Economic and Social Rights Initiative**

[www.nesri.org/programs/housing](http://www.nesri.org/programs/housing)

NESRI works to build a broad movement for economic & social rights including housing. They partner with community organizations, leaders, and advocates in the fight for the right to participatory development that ensures decent housing and healthy and stable communities for all.

## **National Fair Housing Alliance**

[www.nationalfairhousing.org/](http://www.nationalfairhousing.org/)

A consortium of more than 220 fair housing organizations throughout the U.S., NFHA is the only national organization dedicated solely to ending discrimination in housing, and ensuring equal housing opportunity for all.

## **National Health Care for the Homeless Council**

[www.nhchc.org/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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 Housing Law Project**

[www.nhlp.org/](http://www.nhlp.org/)

Through policy advocacy and litigation, NHLP has been responsible for many critically important changes to federal housing policy and programs that have resulted in increased housing opportunities and improved housing conditions for poor people.

## **National Law Centre on Homelessness and Poverty**

[www.nlchp.org/](http://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/](http://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/](http://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.