

FEANTSA Online Conference Week

Preventing Homelessness by Preventing Evictions

Chair: Maria Aldanas, Policy Officer at FEANTSA

Speakers:

- Steffen Schäfer, City of Karlsruhe, Germany
- Bernard Rorke, European Roma Rights Centre, Hungary



FEANTSA

New FEANTSA Membership



<p>WHY NOW?</p>	<p>Join over 140 services, cities, ministries, foundations, housing providers, public health actors, researchers & think tanks in the fight to end homelessness.</p> <p>In 2021 European Commission will launch a European Platform on Homelessness which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a shared goal to end homelessness in EU • Support Member States to make progress by 2030 • Monitor homelessness, develop integrated strategies and facilitate mutual learning, transitional exchanges & capacity building 	
<p>BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:</p>	<p>Feed into our policy development</p> <p>Contribute to our clusters of experts</p> <p>International best practices</p> <p>Network with counterparts across Europe</p>	<p>Access to latest knowledge and research</p> <p>Support to access EU funding</p> <p>Access to EU policy makers</p>
<p>WHO?</p>	<p>Homeless services at all levels</p> <p>Cities</p> <p>Agencies</p> <p>Ministries</p> <p>Foundations</p>	<p>Think Tanks</p> <p>Research institutions</p> <p>Social housing providers</p> <p>Public health actors</p>



**HOUSING
RIGHTS
WATCH**

Housing Rights Watch network

- Transnational network of lawyers, activists and academics
- Homelessness deprives individuals of human rights, including the right to housing.
- To promote housing rights in Europe
- Activities:
 - Disseminating knowledge on housing rights
 - Monitoring Case-law
 - Supporting Strategic Litigation and advocacy
 - Raising awareness about and fight criminalisation of homelessness

Human Rights obligations related to evictions

- **International Covenant of Economic social and cultural rights.** Art. 11.1 Right to an adequate standard of living
 - General Comment No. 4 : Security of tenure which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction
 - General Comment No. 7: Obligation of States to refrain from, and protect against, forced evictions from home(s) and land.
- **European Convention of Human rights.** Art. 8 ECHR. Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence
 - Scope of the notion of “home”.
 - The loss of one’s home is the most extreme form of interference with this right
 - Assessment of proportionality of the measure by a judge if it can cause homelessness. *land, social housing not in privately rented housing*
 - Provision of alternative accommodation



International Covenant on
Economic Social and Cultural Rights



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

Recommendations in relation to evictions during the health crisis

- **Keeping people housed** as a way of limiting the spread of Covid19:
 - Ban evictions for the duration of the health crisis;
 - If for any reason an eviction takes place, the person must be provided with secure and decent alternative housing;
- **Establish financial and legal measures** to alleviate rent arrears and avoid over indebtedness.
- Ensure essential services (such as heating and electricity).
- Establish services to counsel in eviction cases, i.e. legal services for tenants, mediation for eviction cases

• *“Housing has become the frontline defense against the coronavirus. Home has rarely been more of a life or death situation.*

- COVID-19 GUIDANCE NOTE Leilani Farha, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing.

