

CESCR CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS TO THE NETHERLANDS—RECOMMENDATIONS



The Shift submitted a comprehensive written report to CESCR setting out our significant concerns regarding the Netherlands' approach to homelessness, housing affordability, discrimination in housing access, the financialization of housing, housing-related climate policies, and the country's continued economic support for Israel.

The Shift's Director of Legal Research and Advocacy attended the Committee's hearings on the Netherlands in Geneva, presenting oral evidence to the Committee and engaging in advocacy with Committee members.

Following the publication of the Committee's Concluding Observations, we were pleased to see that the Committee took up several of the key recommendations we raised in our submission.

These include:

- 1 To expand investment in social housing and ensure its long-term availability, including by regulating sales and conversions of social housing stock. (para 45(a))
- 2 To intensify efforts to combat structural discrimination in employment, housing, social security, health and education, including through targeted programmes for migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, minorities and disadvantaged groups. (para 27(c))
- 3 To prevent speculative use of housing and require housing investors to uphold human rights standards and improve the efficacy of its housing-related climate renovation and adaptation policies so that they can achieve its net-zero ambitions. (para 45(e))
- 4 To reconsider envisaged adoption legislation that would criminalize irregular migrants or otherwise restrict their access to economic, social and cultural rights. (para 27(e))
- 5 To ensure that its arms export controls and licensing decisions are fully consistent with its obligations under the Covenant; in particular, take all necessary and urgent measures to ensure a complete ban and its effective implementation on the export and transit of weapons, weapon parts, and dual-use items to Israel as well as cease all trade and investment relations that can contribute to the current gross and systematic human rights violations of the Palestinian people, particularly in the Gaza Strip. (para 17(a))

Read our full recommendations to the Committee and their full concluding observations. It is now incumbent on the government of the Netherlands to work to implement each of those recommendations if it is to be regarded as compliant with its human rights obligations.