

The Shift has been expanding our impact across multiple fronts this quarter! From influencing the EU's historic Affordable Housing Plan through our Taskforce on Sustainable Affordable Housing, to successfully advocating at the UN CESCR review of the Netherlands, we've been pushing for human rights to guide housing policy at every level. We introduced our Hidden Housing approach, submitting this proof-of-concept as part of our recommendations on the Build Canada Homes Initiative. We've also taken World Urban Month as an opportunity to reflect on realizing the right to housing and building climate-resilient communities in an urban context. Read on to see how we're working with partners to center human rights in housing solutions worldwide.



Fighting for Human Rights at the Heart of EU Housing Policy

The EU is developing its first-ever Affordable Housing Plan, a historic shift after a history of staying out of housing policy. The Shift is pushing to ensure human rights, not market profits, guide this unprecedented opportunity. Through our Taskforce on Sustainable Affordable Housing, European Project Director Marta

Ribera Carbó submitted recommendations and spoke at the European Parliament's Greens/EFA Housing Summit, presenting evidence of how financialisation has driven the crisis.

[Read more](#)



Hidden Housing

Canada has 1.34 million vacant homes and soaring office vacancies; what if transforming existing spaces, not building from scratch, is the faster, more sustainable path to affordable housing? Our new Hidden Housing framework is about showing how adaptive reuse can deliver much-needed solutions.

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To the UN!

The Shift submitted a written report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights review of the Netherlands. Read our full submission and the key recommendations taken up by the Committee in their Concluding Observations.

[Learn More](#)

World Urban Month

October is World Urban Month, a UN-backed month dedicated to imagining and building better cities for everyone. We've taken this as a call to dig deeper into what shapes our urban spaces, learn from movements across the globe, and to challenge the policies that fall short of creating truly livable, equitable communities. We're spotlighting critical links between the right to housing, climate justice, and effective policy.



[We're Asking the Wrong Questions About the Housing Crisis](#)

\$304 trillion in global residential real estate. Cities spending millions to sweep encampments while homelessness rises. Affordable housing demolished for luxury towers.

[Read more](#)



[The Planet is Home: Let's Treat it That Way](#)

The housing crisis and the climate crisis are not separate emergencies. They are the same crisis, driven by systems that treat both shelter and planet as resources to extract rather than foundations to protect.

[Read more](#)

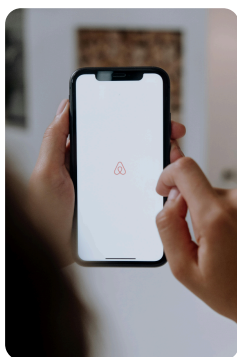


[Solution to Canada's Housing Crisis Has Already Been Built](#)

Canada is in major need of housing, but the Build Canada Homes initiative alone isn't enough. With 1.34 million homes sitting vacant across the country, conversions can house people faster, and with significantly fewer emissions.

[Read full op-ed](#)

In the news...



Complaint about Airbnb profits from Israeli settlements under Garda review after High Court order

"Airbnb has hundreds of properties on its platform in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank in Palestine, all of which are illegal under international law, a status confirmed in a recent ruling by the International Court of Justice."

[Read more](#)



The Shift

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