

Home at all costs. Because home is **everything**.



We mean this literally. Home is where we access clean water, where we rest and recover from illness, where we raise children, where we build the stability from which everything else in life becomes possible. It is not one right among many, it is the condition under which all other rights can be fully exercised. Strip it away, and the architecture of a dignified life collapses.

That is why we refuse to treat the global housing crisis as a market correction, a supply problem, or an unfortunate consequence of economic forces beyond anyone's control. It is the result of choices, made by governments, financial institutions, and investors, that have consistently placed the profitability of housing above its function. And choices can be unmade.

This quarter's work reflects that conviction in practice. From the Welsh Parliament to Brussels to Ljubljana, The Shift has been in the room where housing policy is being debated and shaped, bringing evidence, demanding accountability, and building the coalitions that make systemic change possible.

CAMPAIGN REVIEW

Global Homelessness

The street is no
place to live or
die.

- Ariel, Buenos Aires

Housing is the foundation on which any life, and any economy, is built. An estimated 150 million people worldwide are currently without a home. This is not inevitable. The tools, the legal frameworks, and the resources to fulfill the right to housing already exist. What has been missing is the political will to prioritize them over the interests of those who profit from housing remaining unaffordable.

This quarter, The Shift ran a social media campaign on global homelessness built around one core argument: that home is the wellspring from which people access everything else that sustains human life; water, rest, healthcare, safety, connection, and the capacity to participate fully in society.

[View the rest of the campaign →](#)

IN THE NEWS

VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Coroner calls for housing to be a human right

Following the death of a man sleeping rough, a Victorian coroner has recommended improved supports and legal recognition of housing as a human right.

[Read more →](#)

TORONTO, CANADA

Schools losing students as families flee housing costs

The Toronto District School Board projects 5,000 fewer students next year; a stark measure of how the housing crisis is hollowing out communities.

[Read more →](#)

From Words to Law: what rights-based housing looks like



One of the most common requests The Shift receives when we talk about governments implementing the human right to housing is, “Can you give us examples of who is really doing it right?” While it’s true that *no country* has fully implemented the human right to housing, there are places making strides, and some great lessons to be learned from policies enacted all over the world.

On March 13th, 2026, The Shift presented a few of these to the Welsh Parliament’s Human Rights Cross Party Group to support Welsh groups, including Tai Pawb, who are advocating for a legislated right to housing in Wales. We offered an overview of how countries are turning the international right to adequate housing into domestic law and policy.

Drawing on case studies from Canada, Finland, and Spain, the presentation examined what’s working, what needs improving, and what lessons can be drawn for governments at all levels. From Canada’s 2019 National Housing Strategy Act and its emerging accountability mechanisms, to Finland’s celebrated Housing First model, to Spain’s bold 2023 Ley Vivienda targeting speculative landlord practices, the deck distills six core principles for building effective rights-based housing systems. You can view select slides from the presentation at the link below.

[View select slides →](#)

POLICY & CAPITAL

Shaping Private Capital: Conditionalities for Affordable, Sustainable Housing



On 16 March, TASH and the European Environmental Bureau convened investors, civil society organisations and policymakers, in Brussels, including the European Investment Bank and the European Commission, to discuss how conditionalities can and must ensure that private capital crowded in by EU public support delivers genuinely affordable and sustainable housing. Participants reached broad consensus that public de-risking should be reserved exclusively for social, affordable, and public housing (never market-rate), following a clear priority order: empty buildings first, then retrofits, and new builds only where truly necessary. The discussion also identified key requirements across three pillars: governance transparency; social protections including affordable long-term qualification, tenure security, rent stability, and anti-displacement safeguards; and environmental standards that go beyond legal minimums.

While specific metrics still require further alignment, the event demonstrated the potential of an "unlikely coalition" in shaping how housing investment in the EU should look like to effectively guarantee the right to housing.

[Read the concept note →](#)

Making It Add Up: Housing That's Good for People, Planet, and (Yes) Profit



In March, The Shift partnered with C40 Cities and ULI Europe to co-host the workshop "Making It Add Up: Housing That's Good for People, Planet, and (Yes) Profit" at Urban Future 2026 in Ljubljana.

The session brought together city officials, developers, architects, civil society representatives, and sustainability professionals to tackle a pressing question: why do low-carbon affordable housing projects struggle to achieve viable business cases, despite their clear social and environmental benefits? Participants engaged in a constructive debate, working through a practical urban regeneration case to identify "unlocking moves" that could make sustainable affordable housing both viable and scalable. The session fostered rich exchanges across very different disciplines, surfacing how various actors in the housing value chain define success, risk, and value, and highlighting the critical role of cross-sector collaboration in aligning incentives for housing that truly works for people and the planet.

FEATURED RESEARCH • TASH

Living at the Crossroads

As the EU's first Affordable Housing Plan takes shape, a recent report from the Taskforce on Affordable Sustainable Housing examines what housing financialisation is actually doing to people and the planet across Europe, and what binding safeguards must accompany any private capital mobilised in response. This new report from TASH provides the evidence policymakers and investors need to act.

[Read the full report →](#)



The Shift

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