

“THE RIGHT TO DECENT HOUSING FOR ALL”

Seminar organised by the transversal group ‘Poverty’ of the Human Rights Committee of the Conference of INGOs

on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Strasbourg, 17 October 2018
9h - 13h, Palais de l'Europe, Room 3

Article 31 of the European Social Charter underlines that “With a view to ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing, the Parties undertake to take measures designed:

1. to promote access to housing of an adequate standard;
2. to prevent and reduce homelessness with a view to its gradual elimination;
3. to make the price of housing accessible to those without adequate resources.”

Welcome and opening (9 am)

Welcome by *Miguel Cabral de Pinho*, Vice-Chair of the Human Rights Committee of the Conference of INGOs

Opening by *Eliane Chemla*, General Rapporteur of the European Committee on Social Rights

Findings: Testimonies from NGOs acting in the field and people living in poverty (9.30 am)

Moderator: Peter Verhaeghe, Caritas Europa

- The difficulties to access housing - testimonies by people, ATD Cuarto Mundo Spain
- Health and housing - *Martine Schmelck*, Doctors of the World
- Access to housing - *Robert Urbé*, Caritas Luxembourg – Caritas Europa

Department of the European Social Charter, Collective Complaints Division (10.10 am)

Moderator: Elisabeth Marie, Caritas Europa

- Collective complaints and difficult situations of access to housing and bad housing – *Odetta Kumbaro-Bianku*
- Illustration through a collective complaint - *Niamh Casey*

10.30 am Break

Grass-roots experiences (10.50 am)

Moderator: H el ene Rozet, ATD Fourth World

- The other Europe : European Overview of housing exclusion and homelessness - *Chlo e Serme-Morin* (FEANTSA - European Federation of National Organisations working with the homeless)
- “4 walls and a roof” project of Caritas Alsace and the City of Strasbourg – *Germain Mignot*, Caritas Alsace
- Housing adapted to the culture of families – *Marie-Madeleine Santin*, ATD Fourth World
- Ensuring the effective exercise of the right to housing – Collaborative platform Council of Europe – FRA – ENNHRI – EQUINET

Formulation of recommendations (11.40 am)

Moderator: Jean-Bernard Marie, Justice and peace Europe

Exchange among participants on recommendations made by INGOs and proposals for new recommendations in order to draw up a final document of the Conference of INGOs addressed to relevant bodies in the Council of Europe and to enrich the advocacy of national member organisations of INGOs.

Reading of the text (12.45 pm)

Reading of the text for 17 October, United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty