



Dear Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal,

Addressing homelessness in the context of the right to adequate housing has been an amazing, ground-breaking contribution of the Special Rapporteur within the past 20 years, especially through Leilani Farha's expertise, reports, and collaboration with civil society groups in research and advocacy, including our organization UNANIMA International, as well as the NGO Working Group to End Homelessness.

UNANIMA International is a Coalition of 23 Communities of Women Religious and Friends, in 85 Countries with 25,000 Members. We have been advocating on behalf of Women and Children/Girls for over 18 years at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. Our mission is to ensure that the voice and the journey of those who have experienced homelessness continues to be heard in places of power. For the past two years our research on Family Homelessness, Displacement and Trauma has enabled us to bring the lived experiences of people—especially women and children who have no home— and give them a place at the table, to be heard directly by decision makers. We suggest that the Special Rapporteur, going into the future, always utilizes a gender lens, as the experiences and risks of housing insecurity and homelessness are very often increased for Women and Girls. Moreover, based on findings from our research so far (including field work, expert consultations, connections with service providers, and literature reviews) we find it necessary to increase focus towards, and evaluation of family units. Issues within the family unit or household tend to affect each person, and cannot be siloed. Trauma is one example of this. Trauma is often intergenerational, affecting not only the livelihood of the person experiencing trauma, but also their household and community, and in these global times, our international community.

UNANIMA International focus significantly on including the voices and testimonies of lived experience within our qualitative research, and consequently United Nations advocacy and consultation. From testimonies we have heard, experiences of Family Homelessness/Displacement, many related to social exclusion, violence, and other traumas - we must respond accordingly in keeping these voices at the United Nations, and even adjusting our research methodologies to shift more towards this element, which most clearly demonstrate the harsh realities faced by too many Women and Children/Girls around the world. Our team are prepared to assist the Special Rapporteur with this element upon request.

In terms of a positive development concerning the realization of the right to adequate housing globally, we are pleased to report the bolstering of information sharing and collaboration to address and prevent Family Homelessness through our recent research publications. *The Hidden Faces of Homelessness: International Research on Families Volume Two* includes case studies of Family Homelessness in Australia, The Philippines, Greece, Canada, and Indigenous Communities. Expert testimonies and voices of lived experience,

paired with expert analyses on Family Homelessness/Displacement and Trauma, and literature reviews, give insight to the current reality of increasing Family Homelessness and housing insecurity around the globe and the varying manifestations of these issues. Good practices are highlighted therein, ranging from an Australian National Proposal for Housing Based Stimulus, to NGO Refugee Service Cohesion in Lesbos, Greece, to the organization Homeless People Federation of the Philippines, Inc.

Family Homelessness Through the Lens of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Volume Two explores the intersections between Family Homelessness and topics of the United Nations 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, and 17. It is concluded that Family Homelessness is a multilateral issue, which deserves attention from the United Nations and international community, including listening to the grassroots experiences and testimonies of homelessness, displacement, housing insecurity, and trauma.

The contributions of the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing has been significant, influential and inspirational. Indeed, our organization have benefitted - learning and growing - through collaboration with former Special Rapporteurs, who have brought attention to the aspects of our work that their mandate could not fully reach due to limitations and understandable alternative focuses. We hope your office will look towards us for qualitative research on Women and Children/Girls, the groups globally most vulnerable to both the drivers of Homelessness and housing insecurity, and the mental, physical, and emotional traumas which can accompany such experiences.

Please do contact us with any questions or requests for collaboration in the future. Best wishes in continuing your mandate,

Sincerely,



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