



AN NGO IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC

Our mission gives hope to millions of youth around the globe.



What's your mission?

The Salesian Missions, Inc. is a non-governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2007. It represents the Salesians of Don Bosco who work in 135 countries spread over 5 continents. Our mission is dedicated to ensure that children and youth, particularly those from the marginalized communities have access to their basic needs, their rights are protected and those rights are enjoyed to the full. In this sense we are aligned with the avowed goal of the **2030 Agenda: Leaving No One Behind, reaching the Furthest, First.**

A very important area of our work is reaching out to children and youth on the street to offer them a secure home, rehabilitate and reintegrate them into the larger society. We do this in collaboration with the governments of the countries we work.

In this context while registering our deep appreciation for the Special Rapporteur, Ms. Leilani Farha's Draft for Consultation on Guidelines for the implementation of the right to adequate housing we would like to bring to the notice of the Special Rapporteur two issues In **Guideline No. 4 Address discrimination and ensure equality:**

1. While it refers to various forms of discrimination one important omission is discrimination on the basis of work and descent recognized by CERD Committee (UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) adopted General Recommendation no. 29, 2002). Evidence shows that a very high percentage of those who are homeless belong this specific group.
2. While Guideline No.4 does address "youth" it is important to note **systemic and institutional failures** leading to homelessness among youth. Children who are in safe child welfare institutions are left to fend for themselves on reaching the age of 18 as laws are inadequate to respond to their new situation of being no more children. Even when laws and policies are in place to address the situation due to budgetary constraints, governments and voluntary organizations are unable to respond this emerging phenomenon in many countries we work in. Coupled with the fact that youth migrating to urban areas are often denied decent work and fair wages their right to housing is further jeopardized.

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