

***Housing is Healthcare! Let's Demand the Human Right to Housing!***  
**Multi-city webinar, February 1 2021**

SAVED CHAT (somewhat edited and sorted out!)

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:05 PM

Hello everyone! Nice to be here. I'm Rob Robinson from snowy NYC. Looking forward to the discussion.

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:06 PM

Maureen, we are honored to have you here! Michigan Welfare Rights is in the House!!

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:13 PM

Thanks for sponsoring the PUSH screening; much appreciated.

From Clara Weibel to Everyone: 07:13 PM

**Fill out this form for access to Push:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6tsjJ8J6TBHe-y71CsyLWtKo6YoAHlloYS66mn3S8GTSw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR161BbrkM0dOlx\\_aLpABLDA66sSqFLUQ0\\_hT\\_H1HWyboJr\\_pjSXpdYQrA](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6tsjJ8J6TBHe-y71CsyLWtKo6YoAHlloYS66mn3S8GTSw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR161BbrkM0dOlx_aLpABLDA66sSqFLUQ0_hT_H1HWyboJr_pjSXpdYQrA)

The link above provides a link for a free pass to watch "Push"

Pittsburgh- Randall Taylor mentioned this:

**Land and Power podcast:** <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/935323333/land-power>

Atlanta Housing Justice League: <https://www.housingjusticeleague.org>

**Resource-sharing & Experiences across cities**

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:31 PM

The Right to Counsel Coalition-NYC released a new website--- today Eviction Free NYC Take a look

<https://www.evictionfreeny.org/en/>

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 07:32 PM

Yes, our city government has actively pursued private public partnerships here in Pittsburgh, with enormously destructive impacts.

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:32 PM

yes, so my question becomes why would we look to them for the solutions?

From Alethea Sims to Everyone: 07:33 PM

I lived in one of those high-rise for 20 years.

From Zerita Jones to Everyone: 07:33 PM

greetings, my name is silvia venegas with a.c.c.e. and liberty community landtrust. I beat blackstone after 7 yrs. 🙏 please send me future meetings i have to log off but please reach out im in **van nuys, california..** I want to help anyone with anything regarding steven schwartzman, also knows as blackstone, colony homes, invitation homes, colfin al as we all know has various llc

[Zerita11@gmail.com](mailto:Zerita11@gmail.com)

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From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:34 PM

yes capitalists love subsidies

From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 07:35 PM

go off queen @natalie

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:36 PM

lol thank you Josue. Good to have you here.

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:36 PM

Great points, Randall. Here's some **messaging I've put together over time to present to 'regular people' and policy makers**. Hopefully there are points that will resonate elsewhere.

[https://fairhousingforum.org/wp-content/uploads/Housing-market-overview-Idaho-v2\\_1\\_2021-1.pdf](https://fairhousingforum.org/wp-content/uploads/Housing-market-overview-Idaho-v2_1_2021-1.pdf)

From Me to Everyone: 07:36 PM

**On private-public partnerships:** A helpful new resource is the new book by Joel Bakan, the writer of the film "The Corporation". His new book is "The New Corporation" and there's a film just coming out on that. The ways corporations have stepped up their efforts to extract profits and resist regulations at the expense of communities. <https://thenewcorporation.movie/>

@Atlanta-- From Yolande Tomlinson to Everyone: 07:36 PM

Great breakdown of the issues driving housing crisis in Atlanta, Natalie. The other issues that undergird the problem is the wealth inequality across the city, where the interest of the rich/wealthy drive the policies of the city, which leads to criminalizing working-class practices and culture.

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:39 PM

yes thank you Yolande.

take it back

From Zerita Jones to Everyone: 07:39 PM

New construction is the way they extract wealth from the community, all the housing is not the type we need here in Los Angeles and propels gentrification.

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:40 PM

We will never build our way out of our housing problems. We need to transform the way relate to land and housing. As long as land and housing is commodified we will struggle.

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:40 PM

yes squatting

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:40 PM

There are great models of locally crowd-financed housing that focuses on making a positive impact in the community. See Jolene's First Cousin and Unicorn Bed at: <http://guerrilladev.co/projects> These projects us a mix of conventional financing and crowd investment that is growing in popularity through groups like Guerrilla Development or [www.smallchange.co](http://www.smallchange.co)

From Jackie Smith to Everyone: 07:42 PM

We don't need the private sector to provide social housing and the funding to rehab housing. Here's a white paper from the **Urban Democracy Lab that makes the case for a federal Social Housing Development Authority**. <https://urbandemos.nyu.edu/shda-whitepaper-nov2020/>

From Yolande Tomlinson to Everyone: 07:42 PM

There are lots of cooperative housing and land trust work happening nationally. Lots of them are small or in early stage development. My hope is that we can network these efforts as it's often difficult to secure funding, esp when run my BIPOC folks.

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:44 PM

In 2015 Picture the Homeless counted vacant properties in New York City and discovered there were enough vacant spaces to house the 50,000 homeless people that were in temporary shelters. A copy of the report is attached. <https://www.picturethehomeless.org/>

From Zerita Jones to Everyone: 07:44 PM

sounds like Los Angeles, Our new builds are over\$600k

From Maureen Taylor to Everyone: 07:46 PM

**In Detroit and most sections of Michigan**, we have a different set of challenges connected to housing. We have lots of available housing that stand vacant for years including abandoned military housing, lots of gov't housing that is empty, and other options that are empty. Our homeless are that way because private property is not accessible for those in need. Welfare Rights has a history of housing take-overs nationwide and we will be continuing that practice in just a few months.

@Pittsburgh From Alethea Sims to Everyone: 07:46 PM

Vacancy is not the real problem - affordability is

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 07:46 PM

[https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report\\_2020.pdf](https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2020.pdf)

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:46 PM

I anticipate increasing opportunities to acquire and repurpose commercial properties into mixed-used residential. Most commercial zones allow for flexible residential uses like residential hotels (see Living Downtown by Paul Groth

<https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft6j49p0wf;query=;brand=ucpress> ) and housing cooperatives large or small. <https://www.metropolismag.com/cities/housing/kalkbreite-co-op-zurich-cooperative-renaissance/>

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 07:48 PM

From the source that Jackie just shared, **\*The Case for a Social Housing Development Authority\***

<https://urbandemos.nyu.edu/shda-whitepaper-nov2020/> "The goal of the Social Housing Development Authority (SHDA) is to create lasting solutions for the housing crisis by purchasing distressed real estate, particularly multi-family rentals, and financing its transfer to the social housing sector (such as cooperatives, non-profits, community land trusts, and public housing). In addition to preventing the further consolidation of the housing market by private equity and other speculative investors, this federal program would avoid the upcoming crisis of evictions as

moratoria expire and give distressed landlords a graceful exit. Most fundamentally, however, this policy contributes to the stability and empowerment of those communities most historically affected by predatory policies like redlining and disinvestment by creating permanently affordable, community-controlled housing."

From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 07:48 PM

Abolish private property

From Yolande Tomlinson to Everyone: 07:48 PM

Abolish capitalism!

From Robert Robinson to Everyone: 07:49 PM

Sao Paulo Brazil operates that way Drew!

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 07:50 PM

What in Sao Paulo they take vacant apartments and actually just give them to folx who need them? Sounds great. I'll talk to DeBlasio about that.

From Sabra Marcroft to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Take a look at **East Bay Permanent Real Estate Cooperative in Oakland** and **Square One Villages in Eugene for models** to finance no subsidy low cost housing. Also the **National Housing Trust** for financing land trusts and shared equity housing.

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:50 PM

Vancouver is a city hit hard by remote control of housing infrastructure by outside money. Many units are essentially storage units for offshore wealth. They have been exploring an 'empty homes' tax to reduce the problem. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-state/u-s-cities-look-to-vancouvers-novel-empty-homes-tax>

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Yes, Empty Homes Tax is needed in NYC!

From María Roca-Friends of Sunset Park to Everyone: 07:51 PM

Will there be an opportunity to discuss the role of cash/money laundering in the economic displacement/gentrification scenario?

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 07:52 PM

This is the report on the affordable housing gap: [https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report\\_2020.pdf](https://reports.nlihc.org/sites/default/files/gap/Gap-Report_2020.pdf)

From Maureen Taylor to Everyone: 07:52 PM

Ms Alethea is right. Housing costs should be based on affordability. A percentage of that person's or families income is what is charged for rent. Gov't money IS my money, so I accept the responsibility of stating the rules by which low-income and moderate income people pay for shelter/housing.

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 07:55 PM

**RentHelpPGH.org** Resource Navigators connect people with financial assistance, pro bono legal representation and mediation, food assistance, etc. and has been helping people apply for CARES funds.

RE Sabra's question: From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 07:57 PM

Sabra, **Andrew Heben at SquareOne Villages** is a great resource. We brought him to Boise to speak with folks interested in replicating Opportunity Village, and I was able to visit with him at Emerald Village recently. Eugene benefits from several housing and homeless organizations that work very harmoniously together. <https://tinyurl.com/yd2zw5bf/> Another excellent **Eugene program** is <https://communitysupportedshelters.org/>

### **Is Human Rights a useful tool for housing activists?**

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:56 PM

I have a lot of questions about the **human rights framework**. Based on what we saw in the film I feel very frustrated by it.

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 07:56 PM

Natalie, what are your frustrations?

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 07:58 PM

Helen, this is why.

What is a "right"? Whose rights are recognized? Would we need rights if we had an economic system that centered humans and the Earth? I appreciated the line from Saskia Sassen when she said how we're always talking about how we have a right to this and a right to that. But it's meaningless when someone with so much power gets to decide which rights they're allowed to ignore. Their right to profit, extraction, and violence wins out. Black people have a right to due process and indigenous peoples have a right to their native lands. But these rights have never been enforced.

From Jackie Smith: Here's a slide presentation we have used in Pittsburgh "**Housing is a Human Right: Bringing Human Rights Home**"

[http://wiki.pghrights.mayfirst.org/images/9/9b/Housing\\_as\\_a\\_Human\\_Right.pdf](http://wiki.pghrights.mayfirst.org/images/9/9b/Housing_as_a_Human_Right.pdf) to help people learn about the legal (as well as moral) basis for our claim that housing must be treated as a human right. The Human Rights Cities slogan we use reminds us that "Human rights don't trickle down...they rise up!" So we are the ones who need to make these rights meaningful in practice. Folks like Leilani can help us by showing our local folks that even if the U.S. isn't committed to this right, other countries are making efforts, and looking for more from our government. They can be allies in our struggles. Here are a couple articles we put out to help explain the possibilities for organizing around this:

[UN to US Government: Do Better on Housing Shelterforce](#) June 3, 2019, [Communities Look Beyond Washington for Solutions to Human Rights Threats](#) December 1, 2020

From Jackie Smith to Everyone: 08:03 PM

We need policy makers at local levels to know what international human rights are and how they apply locally. Here is a project that Leilani Farha is working on now—to help municipal leaders in Canada learn strategies for applying international human rights law in municipalities. **Canadian city leaders' Call to Action-Right to Home--** <https://www.make-the-shift.org/righttohome/>

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 08:00 PM

There is a movement to repeal the FAIRCLOTH AMENDMENT  
we should fight for this at the federal level  
the Faircloth Amendment prevents the construction of new public housing

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 08:01 PM

Some great ideas, resources and contacts in this 2019 presentation at the RMLUI conference. See the last section on the **Queen City Cooperative** by Sarah Wells. <https://tinyurl.com/y5khj6s5>

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:00 PM

Natalie, I was very concerned at the beginning of the movie, when Leilani Farha said that she didn't think that capitalism was inherently the problem - she seems to think that more regulation is the answer, but the very wealthy then simply buy off the governments that then don't enforce the rights.

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 08:01 PM

yes exactly Helen. the problem is capitalism.

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:02 PM

Yes, Natalie. And I think you're absolutely right on when you say that the foundational economic system has to center humans and our ecology that we are interdependent with.

From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 08:03 PM

😬 didn't watch the documentary, but if they starting off saying that capitalism isn't a problem than I'm questioning 🤔 on watching it

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 08:04 PM

Josue, it's a good watch. Good to watch things we disagree with :)

From Sanae Lahgazi- Alaou to Everyone: 08:05 PM

lol it's definitely still worth the watch! it's essentially just elucidating a phenomena that is hard to grasp, and I think it's good for political education, despite the capitalism comment

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:05 PM

Josue, it's definitely worth watching! She helps explain the massive system of manipulation of housing for profit very well. Understanding those manipulations really helps us explain the rottenness of the system.

From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 08:06 PM

oh lol I'm still going to watch it. just criticizing lmao

From Lin Woodrich to Everyone: 08:04 PM

A new type of economics - Portland is mentioned in this article <https://time.com/5930093/amsterdam-doughnut-economics/>

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:07 PM

**We have been telling our local elected officials that they are subsidizing the violation of human rights for many years. They know they are.**

From Jason Beery to Everyone: 08:07 PM

FWIW: Farha says (roughly) in the movie that capitalism is generally ok, but not when it comes to things that are human rights

From Maureen Taylor to Everyone: 08:07 PM  
Everybody really understands a lot more after Jan 6th!!!

From Jackie Smith to Everyone: 08:08 PM  
Here are recordings from prior **meetings with Leilani Farha to discuss Push Webinar Part 1: Building a Global Movement to Protect the Right to Housing** –  
<https://pitt.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=5b09c2ec-e1ff-4781-a4c0-ac64001187ce>

**Dialogue featuring Leilani Farha—former UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Adequate Housing, joined by housing and human rights leaders from Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and New York** view recording here. Panelists include: Carl Redwood Hill District Consensus Group. (Pittsburgh); Dr. Yolande Tomlinson Organization for Human Rights and Democracy & US Human Rights Cities Alliance(Atlanta); Rob Robinson (Facilitator), organizer with the US Human Rights Cities Alliance, International Alliance of Inhabitants, and Partners for Dignity and Rights. **Webinar Part 2: Movement building for the Human Right to Housing** <https://pitt.box.com/s/1j1u56zbio4l71gf110ao7ad12lg5tq9>  
(Nov. 5, 2020) Local organizers from Philadelphia, Atlanta and Pittsburgh joined Farha

From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
me and my homies hate private property 🙄  
From Siya Hegde to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
This was absolutely excellent, thank you all so so much!  
From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
Thanks to all!

From Tori Gruber to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
thank you Sanae for facilitating!  
From Josue Acosta to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
thank y'all!  
From Me to Everyone: 08:09 PM

**View the documentary film on the global housing crisis, Push**, which tells the story of how global banks and investment firms are turning our communities into sources of private profit, taking control of residential housing around the world and pushing out low-income residents. \*\*\***Through Sunday morning Feb. 7:** Sign up to receive a free link to view Push:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf6tsjJJ8J6TBHe-y71CcssyLWtKo6YoAHlloYS66mn3S8GTSw/viewform>

From Zerita Jones to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
This was fantastic, excellent work!  
From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
Yes!  
From Sabra Marcroft to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
thanks very much  
From Randall Taylor he/him to Everyone: 08:09 PM  
Thanks Sanae Great Job  
From Susan Gruber to Everyone: 08:09 PM

thank you

From Gabriela Rendon to Everyone: 08:09 PM

Thank you all!

From Maureen Taylor to Everyone: 08:09 PM

YES!!! Save the chat discussions so we can remember

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 08:09 PM

Robert, amen to local control of land. <https://youtu.be/YI4trJE8atI>

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:09 PM

Drew, could I get your email?

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 08:10 PM

[drew.vanderburg@gmail.com](mailto:drew.vanderburg@gmail.com)

From Christian Avana Housing First Umpqua (They/Them) to Everyone: 08:10 PM

<https://www.facebook.com/HousingFirstUmpqua>

From Sabra Marcroft to Everyone: 08:10 PM

national housing trust has money

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 08:10 PM

Reach out about ANYTHING - housing related, art/theater related, whatever, everything.

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:10 PM

Thanks very much, Drew!

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 08:10 PM

[natalie@housingjusticeleague.org](mailto:natalie@housingjusticeleague.org) if you want to chat!

From Drew Vanderburg to Everyone: 08:10 PM

It was RiseBoro Community Partnership and we are also doing a Community Land Trust in Brooklyn and there's just SO MUCH we can all do!

From Helen Gerhardt she/her to Everyone: 08:11 PM

Natalie, did you already share your email?

From Christian Avana Housing First Umpqua (They/Them) to Everyone: 08:11 PM

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fhousingfirstumpqua.org%2Fhome-mobile.html&NXOIu5VD8IaM0ltWFmcNq\\_VBhoStkykKJKImTw](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fhousingfirstumpqua.org%2Fhome-mobile.html&NXOIu5VD8IaM0ltWFmcNq_VBhoStkykKJKImTw)

From Randall Taylor he/him to Everyone: 08:11 PM

[randalltaylor2017@gmail.com](mailto:randalltaylor2017@gmail.com)

From Erik Kingston to Everyone: 08:11 PM

Let's hope the \$1.9T bill passes. We need to get on that to claim funds for cities and counties to reclaim land and housing.

From Natalie McLaughlin to Everyone: 08:11 PM

Yes