

Assistant Secretary John Trasviña
Deputy Assistant Secretary Argilagos
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W., Washington, DC 20410

By Mail and Email

Dear Assistant Secretary John Trasviña and Deputy Assistant Secretary Argilagos:

Thank you for hosting the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) follow up meeting with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), State Department and Department of Justice. We felt it was a good start to a continuing conversation on how to uphold our country's commitment to the right to adequate housing for all.

We summarize here what we consider the key points that were made in the discussion to facilitate your responses to the UPR recommendations at the March session of the Human Rights Council.

We believe that the government should formally accept each of the housing-related recommendations, as outlined in the meeting agenda, and provide a brief description of the steps it will take to implement them. This will provide internal accountability as well as provide a strong example for other governments about the level of answers they should give in the UPR process. Attached are our recommendations on appropriate steps.

In addition to the recommendations referenced on your agenda, we also discussed recognition of the right to adequate housing and ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. We have included our recommendations in this regard in the attached document as well.

Lastly, we again emphasize that our recommendations largely reflect those made by UN human rights monitors including the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Special Rapporteurs on Racism and Adequate Housing. The Administration should look to the recommendations of these bodies in setting its own framework for responding to the UPR recommendations and setting housing policy more broadly.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input, and we look forward to continuing this conversation. Please contact Maria Foscarinis, Jeremy Rosen or Eric Tars at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, 202/638-2535, if you would like to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,

Maria Foscarinis
Jeremy Rosen
Eric Tars
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Lauren Nussbaum
National AIDS Housing Center

Natalie Thompson
National Center on Family Homelessness

Ben Clark
National Fair Housing Alliance

Phil Tegeler
Poverty & Race Research Action Center

Anita Beaty
Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Habitat International Coalition

Susan Scott
National Lawyers Guild, International Committee

Tanya Clay House
Joe Rich
Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

Rob Robinson

Cc:
Dep. Chief Jonathan Harwitz
Sen. Advisor Fred Karnas
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Gen. Dep. Asst. Sec. Bryan Greene
Sen. Advisor Janet Hostetler
Spec. Asst. Marianna Leavy-Sperounis
Sen. Counselor Vicki Schultz, Department of Justice, Civil Rights
David Sullivan, State, Office of the Legal Adviser
Scott Busby, National Security Council