

Housing proposal call

Call out for case studies dealing with Housing in your country (Maximum 5 pages)

Context of the project:

At the 2014 GLU Applied Alumni Research School (AARS), several participants discussed issues of housing accessibility and housing's crucial role in worker's - whether in or out of work - standard of living. In many countries, both in the Global North and South, rising real housing costs have led to an effective real wage cut, as workers are left with less after paying their housing costs every month.

While the issue of eroding access to housing appears to be an expansive global phenomenon, this process seems to be manifesting itself quite differently between North and South, and also between and even within countries. We believe that this process, and the counter voices resisting it, is a worthwhile story to tell from a worker's rights perspective.

Alumni of the Global Labour University are interested in hearing from other alumni - as well as other allies interested by this question - in order to develop a stronger comparative perspective on what is occurring to housing globally, and what unions and social movements are doing in response to precarious housing situations. Our aim is to assemble a collection of short, succinct descriptions of eroding housing access globally and modes of resistance to this, and then to collate these into a short, easy to access publication. At this juncture, we're specifically interested in hearing about:

Statistics about housing in your country. Statistics could include some of the following elements (don't feel obliged to provide all of them):

- Demographic statistics (age, ethnicity, gender)
- Percentages of households who are renting and owning
- Concentration of housing and land ownership
- Statistics on slum housing/squatters/land occupation
- Government housing and numbers on waiting lists
- Other types of social housing (co-operative, union owned, housing association)
- Homelessness
- Statistics on evictions
- Housing's impact on cost of living (e.g. percentage of wages spent on housing on average, for the lowest income people, etc...)
- The gender dimension of housing impacts (how are women and men affected differently by housing challenges?)

Please try to put housing issues in context. Some of these elements might include:

- Government housing policy
- Financialisation – investment and speculation on housing - what are the main forces driving up housing costs in your country? Is it speculative foreign capital buying property, cheap money, current account deficits, foreign remittances flowing into the country, etc...?

- Regulation/de-regulation of the housing markets (e.g. are there rent controls, social housing provision, privatization)
- Mortgage policy (e.g. subsidies, tax breaks)
- Social context (e.g. cultural issues, levels of poverty)
- Political context (e.g. political system, political violence, party system)
- History of housing problem
- Social exclusion
- Gender issues
- The legal context of housing in your country: is your country or sub-national government a signatory to the UNCESCR or other international agreements outlining the right to decent housing? Is your national or sub-national level(s) of government bound by specific constitutional or legal responsibilities addressing the provision of housing? Is this provision being respected, breached or is it partially respected?

Please think about providing details of a movement/trade union/campaign to deal with these housing problems. This could range from very local campaigns to national movements.

- Describe the aims of the movement/organization
- Who is involved?
- Where does it operate?
- What is the focus of the campaign?
- What tactics and strategies do they use?
- How does the campaign or pressure group function?
- How effective has their actions been? Have there been some victories - either full or partial that might be interesting to share?

Submission deadline: September 1st. Submissions are requested in English, though if authors wish to write in another language and independently locate a translator, this too would be acceptable.

To learn more about the Global Labour University, please visit: <http://www.global-labour-university.org/>

If you are thinking of a submission, and unsure what to write about, please feel free to contact us ,sending your questions/comments and eventual submission to: christopher.k.schwartz@gmail.com

We look forward to hearing from you on your struggles!

IN SOLIDARITY!