

November 4, 2024

Letter from the Chair, Housing Rights Advisory Committee

Following discussion arising from [Item HS 1.5 - Building a Common Understanding of Housing Rights](#), I believe that the committee should invite opportunities to expand its housing rights knowledge and increase its capacity to fulfill its mandate, in particular, to provide advice to City Council:

- a) on policies, programs and actions that the City can implement to advance its commitment to furthering the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing in Toronto based on housing and human rights expertise, lived experiences of housing precarity, discrimination and homelessness, and academic research and learnings from other jurisdictions.

Based on this direction, I recommend the Housing Rights Advisory Committee:

1. Invite Leilani Farha, Global Director of The Shift and former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing to present at today's Housing Rights Advisory Committee meeting on applying a human rights-based approach to housing and identifying human rights outcomes that municipalities can work toward.

Through her work, Leilani Farha has helped develop global human rights standards on the right to housing, including through her reports on homelessness, the financialization of housing, informal settlements, rights-based housing strategies, and the first UN Guidelines for the implementation of the right to housing. Therefore, I find it extremely fitting and within scope of our mandate to have Ms. Farha join us today and share her insights.

Submitted by Elizabeth McIsaac, Committee Chair, November 4, 2024.