



NEWS RELEASE

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Home economists across the globe ask the United Nations to facilitate financial policy reform to alleviate women's homelessness in the Global South.

- The commercialization and privatization of customary land in the Global South disadvantages women and renders them homeless and interrupts their livelihoods.
- The United Nations 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development meets February 10-19 at its headquarters in New York, USA to address social protection for all against homelessness.
- The president and officials from the International Federation for Home Economics will attend the 58th Session to advocate financial policy reform requiring international creditors and investors to alleviate feminized homelessness through dispossession.

Home economists from around the world will gather at the United Nations headquarters in New York from February 10 to 19 to attend the 58th Session of the Commission for Social Development focusing on affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness. Representatives from the *International Federation for Home Economics* (IFHE) will ask United Nations affiliated financial institutions to review and reform signatory eligibility and compliance policies in order to strengthen and uphold provisions to mitigate feminized homelessness in the Global South. In personal wealth management and income tax reduction planning, individuals can help by making sure fund companies in their portfolios comply with social sustainability standards.

“Engaging in this international forum is important for IFHE because of the impact that housing has on women, families, and our future. That’s why we are here at the UN this week,” said Dr. Sandra Poirier, Professional Home Economist and Professor, Middle Tennessee State University, USA.



Evidence and experience indicate that one of the most significant inequalities and pressing challenges to addressing homelessness and ensuring social protection for all manifest in one of the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations, women in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Economic agreements between governments and international investors denationalize and privatize land historically controlled by customary law in which women had shared use of property and natural resources for the respective purposes of building basic homes and subsistence livelihoods. The social obligations and communal arrangements under customary tenure have been particularly important for women who are more dependent upon them in order to use the land and control assets such as livestock and crops to generate income with which to build basic homes and subsistence livelihoods.

The most important social protection measure against feminized homelessness in the Global South is international financial policy reform in combination with action by investment and financial groups committed to social sustainability. International, economic policies must be reviewed and revised to explicitly include resettlement, rehabilitation, restitution, and resolution requirements of investors participating in and enjoying the benefits of United Nations-affiliated credentials for sustainable asset management.

“Women’s land rights are essential to human progress. *Everyone* needs a place to create a life—to flourish,” said Dr. Peggy O’Neil, Professional Home Economist and Adjunct Research Professor, Brescia College University, Canada.

Homes are environments where individuals reach their full potential, live a life of dignity, and develop and express their global interdependence. IFHE appreciates and welcomes the opportunity to work together with the United Nations *Commission for Social Development* toward the realization of our mutual aims of universal peace and larger freedom for our entire human family by alleviating women’s homelessness through dispossession in the Global South.

IFHE - A Global Voice For Home Economics



Founded 1908, the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is the only international body representing home economics.

We strive to achieve sustainable living for all, advocating education and research on the responsible management of household resources and the impact of individual choices on local/global communities.

Our perspective and membership are global. We hold consultative status with the United Nations