

Human Right to housing for **Women & Gender Diverse People**

Kaitlin Schwan & Marie McGregor Pitawanakwat

"The right to housing is not just a rally cry. It, like human rights more generally, offers concrete standards that can be implemented and measured for progress" - Former UN special rapporteur Leilani Farha

THE 2019 NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY ACT

The first legislation in Canada to recognize and commit to housing as "essential to the inherent dignity and well-being of the person."



NEED FOR POLICY CHANGE

National Housing Strategy is failing those who are suffering the most in the current housing system - Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, gender diverse persons.

HOMELESS CRISIS

Disproportionately impacting Indigenous Peoples as a result of colonial and patriarchal policies that have dispossessed Indigenous Peoples of their land and homes.

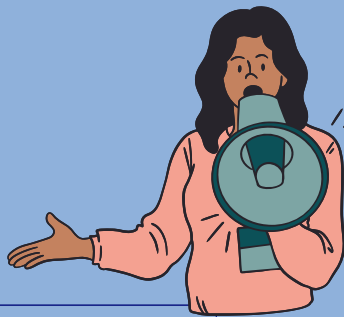
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WOMEN ARE TURNED AWAY?

Women are regularly being turned away from shelters due to overcrowding and underfunding of women-specific shelters. This results in women and their children having to sleep outside, stay in an abusive situation, engage in survival sex, etc.



NATIONAL INDIGENOUS FEMINIST HOUSING WORKING GROUP

A claim was presented by NIFHWG, a group affiliated with Keepers of the Circle, that concentrated on the national housing crisis' effects on Indigenous women and girls. The claim points to how colonialism, genocide, and oppression create housing inequity.



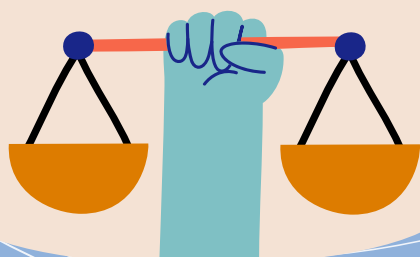
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- We can continue to support communities and groups to develop and submit their claims to the Federal Housing Advocate.
- Provide information, materials, and tools to individuals, organizations, and sectors on the right to housing.

KEEPERS OF THE CIRCLE

Addressing a service gap for Indigenous women and their families through a non-profit organization. Indigenous women from the community serve on the board of directors, which oversees the organization. A Council of Wisdom Keepers made up of senior members of First Nations within their geographic jurisdiction, serves as the organization's governing body.

HOUSING *is a*
HUMAN RIGHT



To get involved: <https://womenshomelessness.ca/fileyourclaim/>

