

# **The Right to Housing: An International Perspective**

**Michelle OREN, Israel**

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## **ABSTRACT**

“... The right to housing goes further than the right not to be subjected to arbitrary or forced eviction. It also involves a duty on the State to take effective action to enable its people to meet their need for a safe and secure home where they can live with dignity.” Nelson Mandela Former President of South Africa Over one billion of the world habitants lack adequate housing, but near a third of humanity (more than two billion people) live without security of tenure, adequate legal safeguards against forced eviction and without access to clean and affordable drinking water in the home. Another 100 million have no housing whatsoever and Homelessness in EU has reached 3,000,000 people. The late Financial Crises in 2008 has only worsened the situation. Ensuring the availability of housing is a policy priority in most countries. At the International sphere more than a dozen international human right texts, that enshrine the Right to housing, have been reaffirmed in numerous international declaratory and policy instruments. At the National level More than fifty national constitutions enshrine various formulations of housing rights and other housing related state responsibilities. However, very few of the constitutions enshrine the right to housing. Unlike housing policy “the right to housing” serves a deeper but more abstract purpose that is a natural human right independent of circumstances and resources. This comparative study present an important part of the “right to housing” discourse includes some of the relevant legislation and ruling in selected countries.

## **CONTACTS**

Ms. Michelle Oren, Student  
Technion - Israeli Institute of Technology  
Kiryat Hatechnion 97/2 Newe America  
Haifa 32000  
ISRAEL  
Tel. + 972 5238 76234  
Email: mlleoren@technion.ac.il