



THE PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

November 25, 2024

Balakrishnan Rajagopal
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
Geneva, Switzerland

Olivier De Schutter
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Special Rapporteurs,

Please find enclosed the United States's response to your letter dated October 18, 2024 (AL USA 23/2024).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michèle Taylor', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ambassador Michèle Taylor
Permanent Representative to the
UN Human Rights Council

U.S response regarding the Miami Beach City Code

Thank you for your letter dated October 18, 2024, regarding newly enacted amendments to the Miami Beach City Code and Florida House Bill 1365.

The United States government continues to address the nation's homelessness crisis with the urgency it requires, prioritizing new resources and programs to help communities quickly reconnect people experiencing homelessness to housing.

The Biden-Harris Administration has delivered significant resources to keep people housed and prevent a massive spike in homelessness. This includes resources from the American Rescue Plan, which provided the largest single-year investment in assisting people experiencing homelessness in history, with \$5 billion for 70,000 Emergency Housing Vouchers to help people move from homelessness into stable housing and an additional \$5 billion to help communities expand permanent supportive housing, non-congregate shelter, rental assistance, and supportive services. From 2021 through 2023, programs of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) assisted or permanently housed 1.2 million people who were experiencing homelessness.

Additionally, the U.S. federal government has issued guidance discouraging reliance on criminalization of homelessness as a tool and has emphasized that it is often counterproductive.

HUD continues to support communities that enhance housing and supportive services options for people experiencing homelessness under its Continuum of Care Program, which is the largest source of federal grant funding for homeless services and housing programs, as well as the Emergency Solutions Grants Program.

Moreover, the 2022 Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, "All In", urges communities to reject expensive, ineffective, and inhumane laws that ticket, arrest, and jail people for experiencing homelessness, and instead protect people experiencing it and invest in real solutions, including affordable housing and evidence-based services that help people move off the streets and into homes. It also recommends launching messaging campaigns to challenge public narratives that dehumanize people experiencing homelessness and includes alternatives to criminalization.

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) has also developed resources and recommendations on ways communities can address homelessness through means that reduce negative impacts, including actions that decrease interactions with the criminal justice system. For instance, USICH recently released 19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively—and without criminalizing the people living in them.

At the same time, we note that the United States is governed by a federal system, where the federal government and U.S. state and local governments have separate and overlapping powers and authorities. Accordingly, we have passed your request for information to authorities in Florida and Miami Beach and will refer any subsequent response from those entities.