The Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is the global network for rights related to habitat. Through solidarity, networking and support for social movements and organizations, HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, and works in the defence, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land in both rural and urban areas.

**What Is HIC’s Human Rights Habitat Observatory?**

HIC HRHO is a new collective initiative established by HIC, its Housing and Land Rights Network (HIC-HLRN) and Members to pose solutions and influence national and international debates and efforts to implement, monitor and evaluate the new global agendas, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) with the framework of states' human rights obligations.

HIC HRHO integrates and reflects the historic and current composition of HIC since 1976, convening community-based organizations, large and small nongovernmental organizations, academic and research centers, professional associations, social movements and concerned individuals for over 40 years. Through HIC, these diverse and complementary partners share their expertise, competence and struggles as assets that form the basis for the Observatory.

HIC HRHO also seeks to ensure that any new iteration of global policy and implementation does not regress in states’ prior policy commitments or their obligations under international law, in particular human rights treaties.

**How Does the Human Rights Habitat Observatory Work?**

HIC HRHO coordinates efforts of HIC’s Members through its regional and thematic Structures pooling and sharing knowledge, while raising the capacity and competence of HIC to monitor, uphold and develop the Sustainable Development System on its promised human rights basis.

HIC HRHO informs and strengthens capacity of HIC Members by optimizing training, tools and solidarity to analyze policy and advocate local and global policy coherence to harmonize short-term humanitarian interventions with longer-term institution-building development approaches inside the overarching framework of human rights with their intended preventive and remedial effects.

The HRHO seeks further convergence of HIC Members’ and allies’ efforts to restore the “habitat” approach, as promised in the Habitat Agenda, that treats villages and cities as points on a human settlements continuum within a common ecosystem. This “habitat” approach promises to foster greater cooperation and convergence among urban, rural and indigenous social movements to sustain the planet through practical solidarity.

**Who Can Be Part of the Human Rights Habitat Observatory?**

HIC HRHO functions entail collaboration with and among HIC Members and allies working in the field of Human Rights Habitat and related fields (e.g., climate change, gender issues, land defense).

HIC HRHO embraces the efforts of partners working in both rural and urban areas, in local and global spheres who fight for remedy and accountability for violations of habitat rights wherever they are found.

As always, HIC prioritizes its advocacy, knowledge creation and other services and functions to benefit social groups subject to discrimination, marginalization and impoverishment.

HIC HRHO offers a chance also for HIC Members and allies in academic and technical fields to seize the historic moment by channeling meaningful contributions to rethinking sustainable development within the framework and methods of human rights.
## Habitat Library

HIC HRHO hosts vast documentary resources through an integrated system accessible from HIC websites (links below). The Habitat Library is a digital documentation center designed to aid researchers and the general public to find specialized resources and analysis. HIC offices continuously update contents and can assist users upon request.

The documents and other items in the Habitat Library are searchable by Habitat Themes related to (1) specific Communities, (2) Issues and (3) Action Areas of HIC Members. Users can search also by specific country or territory, and by scope of the issues (local to international).

To clarify habitat-related terms, you can consult also the online HICtionary.

## Policy Analysis and Advocacy

HIC HRHO develops analytical methods with Members and allies to monitor and evaluate implementation of current global development policy agendas within the framework of relevant international law, in particular human rights treaties and corresponding state obligations.

The resulting methods of policy analysis and related advocacy instruments integrate the core principles and functions of HIC-HLRN developed over decades in supporting HIC Member submissions to international forums, including parallel reports to human rights treaty bodies, the UN Human Rights Council, its Universal Periodic Review and Special Procedures.

These efforts will optimize opportunities for advocacy on the regularly updated HRHO Calendar, while developing greater civil society capacity, convergence and collaboration. The resulting tools and methods will serve Members in their own national policy analysis efforts.

## Tools and Techniques

HIC HRHO applies the solutions and tools developed by HIC-HLRN including the [Urgent Action Database](https://www.hlrn.org), [Violation Database](https://www.hlrn.org), [Eviction Impact Assessment (EVI-A)](https://www.hlrn.org), and [Loss Matrix](https://www.hlrn.org).

HIC HRHO will also develop and launch new tools and techniques developed with HIC Members and allies, as always in response to HIC Member needs and demands. These assets are available to all through HIC websites and upon request.

HIC HRHO supports the production of exemplary case studies as vehicles for public information, creation and exchange of knowledge and expertise. These will apply the human rights norms applicable to each case, as well as analyze their relevance to the current global policy instruments. Case Studies will reflect HIC Member initiatives and strategic opportunities, ranging from local, country-level and regional assessments.

## Training and Capacity Development

HIC HRHO provides an opportunity to operationalize the HICademy as an online source of training materials resources and learning opportunities to support further capacity development and knowledge sharing.

HIC HRHO also provides stand-up training, as well as curriculum development and production of related pedagogical aids and materials. Through training events, HIC HRHO will apply these assets in the support of HIC Members and other civil society actors to develop and apply human rights norms and instruments related to a Human Rights Habitat that is consistent with multilateral commitments and state obligations.

## Solidarity Actions and Campaigns

HIC HRHO will launch solidarity campaigns that accompany and support community processes in developing habitat policy and problem-solving alternatives toward the achievement of well-being (buen vivir) with dignity for all people, promoting [Gender Equality](https://www.hlrn.org), the [Social Production of Habitat](https://www.hlrn.org), defending the human right to a [Safe and Healthy Environment](https://www.hlrn.org), and fighting against violations of the [Human Rights to Housing and Land](https://www.hlrn.org) and the [Right to the City](https://www.hlrn.org) within a Human Rights Habitat.

These actions and campaigns mobilize and coordinate HIC Members in mutual support of their communities’ individual and collective struggles for a Human Rights Habitat.

---

For more information please contact [hlm@hlm.org](mailto:hlm@hlm.org) and [gs@hic-net.org](mailto:gs@hic-net.org)