

Press Advisory

Buenos Aires: Leading Human Rights advocate, Leilani Farha, to conduct first ever virtual fact-finding mission

Leilani Farha, the Global Director of The Shift and former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to housing (2014-2020) and her team will conduct a virtual human rights fact finding visit to the Metropolitan Area of Buenos Aires from 23rd – 28th November 2020.

‘This fact-finding mission is not only a first for us at The Shift, but it is a first of its kind. During the pandemic, human rights visits have been suspended despite their essential nature. It is for this reason that I am very pleased to be visiting Buenos Aires and I hope we can use this opportunity to have constructive private and public meetings around the human right to housing, an issue that has never been more important.’ says the Global Director, Leilani Farha.

Almost every country across the world is experiencing a global housing crisis that has led to a rise in homelessness, informal settlements, forced evictions, discrimination for those facing housing exclusion, as well as the expulsion of low-income communities from large urban centers. This crisis has only intensified as a result of the global pandemic.

“The objective of this visit is to understand how these global trends are present in AMBA and to learn from the lived reality experienced by the local population. It is my intention to incorporate these experiences in order to develop a constructive set of recommendations aimed at assisting local efforts to secure the human right to housing during and after the pandemic for those living in AMBA.”

The virtual fact-finding mission will include site visits, public gatherings with key stakeholders, as well as private meetings with public officials, private actors and bar lawyers. Parallel to the fact-finding mission, The Shift and its local partners ACIJ and ACEAJ will host a documentary film panel featuring PUSH the Film and *Pichi: El jesuita del pueblo*, which will take place on Thursday 26 November at 17:30 Buenos Aires local time. At the end of the visit, the Global Director will present her findings and recommendations at a press conference to be held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at 14:00 local time.*

*Simultaneous translation will be provided at every event.

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Leilani Farha is the Global Director of The Shift and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing. Leilani's work is animated by the principle that housing is a social good, not a commodity. She has helped develop global human rights standards on the right to housing, including through her topical reports on homelessness, the financialization of housing, informal settlements, rights-based housing strategies, and the first UN Guidelines for the implementation of the right to housing. She is also the central character in the documentary PUSH regarding the financialization of housing, screening around the world and now co-hosts a podcast, PUSHBACK Talks on the same topic.

The Shift is a global human rights organization dedicated to furthering the realization of the right to housing. The Shift collaborates closely with local and regional governments in supporting their efforts to secure the right to housing. One way of doing this is by conducting local fact-finding visits to understand how the right to housing is being secured at the local level and how the commodification of housing is affecting this right.