

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING



The right to a good home in Wales

WHAT IS IT?

The **right to adequate housing** means everyone has the right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity. Originating as part of the broader right to an adequate standard of living through the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, countries across the world are increasingly using it to drive action to end homelessness and improve the quality of people's homes.

IT DOESN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, BUT...



... it is achieved over time through a process called **progressive realisation**.

Progressive realisation is a process that legally requires government to commit the maximum available resources, including land and finance, over time towards the realisation of a the right. And crucially, to take no measures that could contradict that right. **This means that a right to adequate housing is a long-term, achievable policy goal.**

INVESTMENT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Introducing a right to adequate housing does not change existing rights in law for people who are homeless - so it doesn't mean that councils have to provide everyone with a home instantly...

...but it can influence legislation changes to ensure **greater rights for homeless and other people**. Without sufficient investment, the right cannot be realised. So by introducing the right in law, **it will drive the progressive investment we need.**

SEVEN COMPONENTS

1. Legal security of tenure
2. Affordability
3. Habitability
4. Availability of services, materials, facilities & infrastructure
5. Accessibility
6. Location
7. Cultural adequacy

INCREASED LITIGATION ISN'T THE INTENTION...

It's not the intention to increase litigation. Progressive realisation of a right to housing in law requires, for example, sustained investment of the maximum available resources and continual progress towards the full realisation of that right over time. By enacting a commitment to progressive realisation, and with the support of effective non-judicial governance mechanisms, the risk of litigation is mitigated. And crucially, a greater number of people are able to access their right to a good home.

It is important that people have access to justice, but **litigation is a measure of last not first resort**. Evidence from Wales and Scotland shows that there is little risk of human rights legislation leading to a 'floodgate' of legal cases; but providing people with mechanisms to exercise their rights influences policy changes and ultimately delivers better outcomes for people.

Back the Bill? Sign up as a supporter
www.taipawb.org/backthebill



Chartered Institute of Housing
Cymru