

Karima Bennoune
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

20 May 2019

Submission: Cultural rights and public spaces

Dear Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, Karima Bennoune,

The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) is an open, flexible, diverse network of civil society and local governments organizations committed to political action and social change through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of the Right to the City at all levels, paying special attention to people and communities affected by exclusion and marginalization.

Habitat International Coalition (HIC) is an international collective of civil society organizations, social movements and individuals that mobilizes and advocates in defence, promotion and enforceability of the human rights of homeless, evicted, displaced, landless and inadequately housed people and communities, including those under occupation.

Today, GPR2C and HIC has more than 350 members over 140 countries. They aim to contribute to the emergence of new emancipatory utopias and social pacts for a better future in all human settlements based on the principles, norms and standards of human rights and the Right to the City in a Human Rights Habitat.

In this context, we consider important to contribute in the next report on cultural rights and public spaces. This theme is closely related to the right to the city. Over the last decades, the Right to the City has been an alternative and a claim with which to respond to some of the most pressing challenges of our time: social injustice, inequality, exclusion, dispossession, spatial segregation, discrimination of all kinds, destruction and privatization of the commons and environmental degradation. By offering concrete solutions, with strong potential for the transformation of our societies, it has also been a way to reaffirm, update and defend human rights and the corresponding state obligations.

We thank you in advance for giving us the opportunity to contribute to your mandate and we hope to continue a constructive dialogue. We take this opportunity also to assure you of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,