



Global Platform for the Right to the City  
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad  
Plateforme Globale pour le Droit à la Ville

## **Beyond recovery: the Right to the City essentials for transformation**

*GPR2C Declaration for the World Day for the Right to the City*

October 31, 2021

On the World Day for the Right to the City, social movements, civil society organisations and local governments join our voices to demand democratic, diverse, solidary, just, multicultural and sustainable cities, villages and human settlements that are respected as common goods and where human rights are guaranteed for all. To this end, we propose collective alternatives for a post-pandemic recovery.

For that, the Global Platform for the Right to the City releases the publication "[The impact of COVID-19 on the right to the city: Post-Pandemic Perspectives to Build Back Better and Fairer Cities and Human Settlements](#)". The publication assesses the impacts of the pandemic and the long-standing economic and urban development models in our human settlements, and shares recommendations for different levels of government for recovery and long-term change strategies based on the material, political and cultural dimensions of the Right to the City.

We believe that we are at a critical point for driving systemic change towards the realization of the Right to the City around the world. The impacts of the COVID-19 and climate crisis have further exposed the shortcomings of current economic and urban development models and the need to move towards more just, equal and diverse paradigms. The immediate response to the pandemic has shown that there is a concrete possibility of implementing wide-spread public policies committed to social protection for all. However, also where vaccination campaigns are rolled-out and economic activity is reactivated, global inequalities are once again at a clear display and, as temporary protection measures are lifted, we are on the verge of a worsening of the living conditions, with the accentuation of hunger and an imminent "evictions wave". Moreover, it should be noted that a large part of the crisis management has fallen on the shoulders of millions of women of all ages, who have increased their unpaid work hours to address to serious family and community problems.

**Cities and human settlements have been at the center of the COVID-19 crisis and will play a key role in the development of recovery strategies that will impact all areas of daily life --from commerce, to mobility, migration, housing, provision of basic services and others. We call for political authorities at all levels to keep advancing Right to the City policies that strengthen and expand the components of this vision for a fairer, inclusive and sustainable future in both cities and rural areas, everywhere in the world. This can certainly be done through the localization of global commitments such as the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda under a Human Rights approach.**

This turning point for transformation comes at the beginning of the Decade of Action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the commemoration of five years of the approval of the New Urban Agenda, which explicitly recognizes the Right to the City. Over the last five years we have witnessed a timid commitment and, in many cases, significant setbacks by national governments and international organizations in terms of advancing their



**Global Platform for the Right to the City**  
**Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad**  
**Plateforme Globale pour le Droit à la Ville**

commitments. Meanwhile, the evaluation process has been marked by an overall lack of transparency and absence of spaces for open, participatory multi-actor debate.

Now more than ever, it is time for reclaiming and strengthening the key commitments of the New Urban Agenda in order to build recovery strategies committed to advancing the Right to the City for all, towards fairer, inclusive and sustainable futures in our territories.

#### **Our essentials for a Right to the City pandemic recovery:**

- **Socially and spatially just distribution of resources**, *through fostering the social function of property and the city and strengthening public financing for cities, providing greater resources, better public budgeting processes, ensuring distributive justice, access to basic services for all, strengthening inclusive, circular economies and the care economy;*
- **Democratic participation in policy making**; *both regarding the short, mid and long-term recovery strategies, but also under a larger framework of democratic and participatory management of territories; strengthening accountability and participation of grassroots organizations, women, girls and boys, youth, and leaderships of excluded groups and sectors;*
- **Inclusion of urban diversity and cultures in city building**; *fostering diversity, ensuring equal access to urban cultural life and commitment to driving gender equality and inclusive citizenship.*

You can read the full recommendations in its different dimensions for short, mid and long-term actions [in our publication](#).

[Global Platform for the Right to the City](#), October 2021