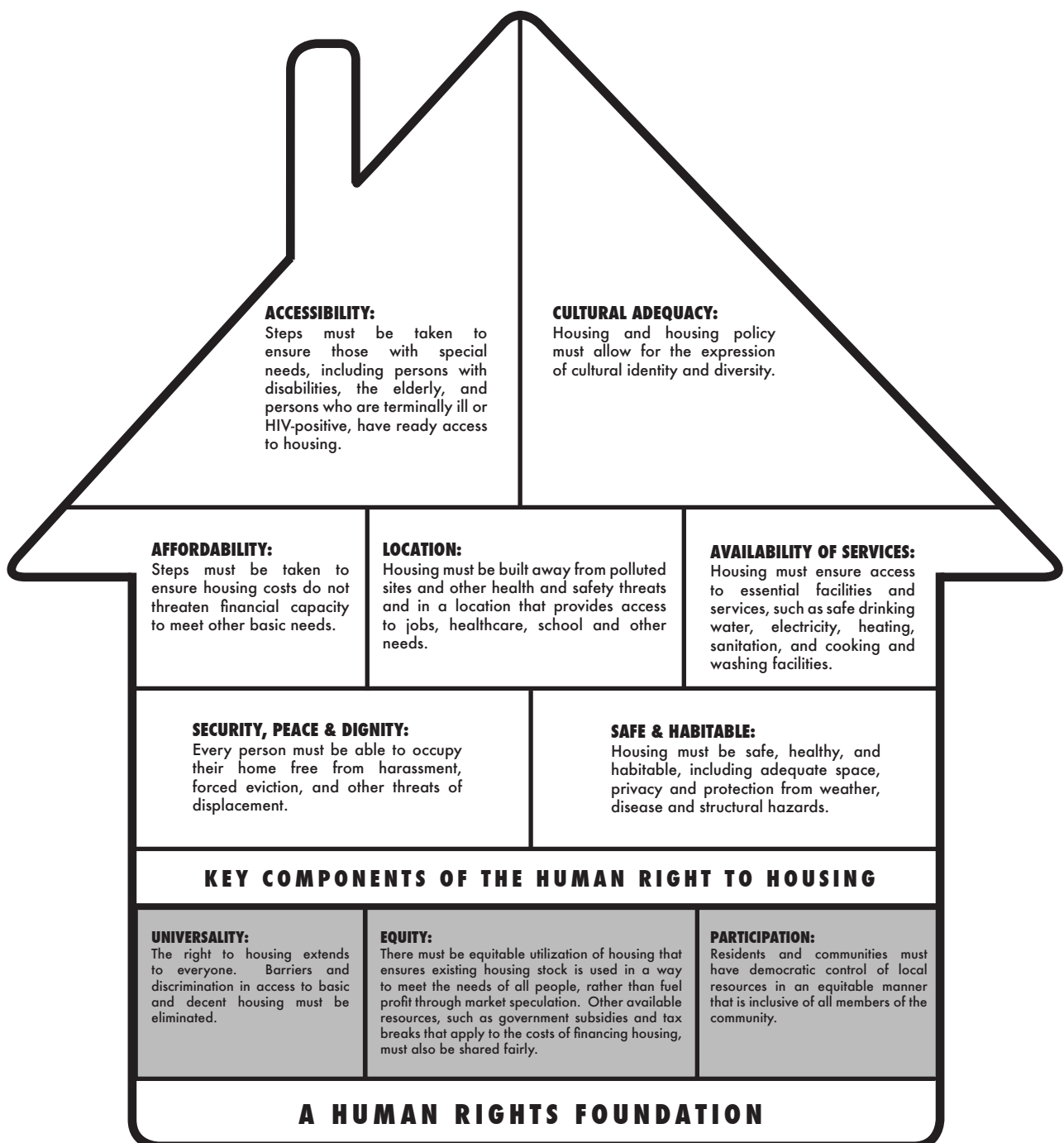


What is the Human Right to Housing?

Housing is recognized as a fundamental human right in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 25). Governments have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill all human rights, many of which arise out of basic needs.

The Human Right to Housing is “more than a roof” because a home is not just a commodity or even merely shelter. A home is the very foundation of family stability, personal belonging and community. The Human Right to Housing is therefore the right to live in a decent home in peace and dignity, and to live in a society where housing is afforded to all on an equitable basis.

The right to housing is built on the foundation of basic human rights principles, such as universality, equity and participation. Governments are also obligated to meet the following seven conditions to ensure basic housing rights are met.



What is the State of the Human Right to Housing in the United States?

In the United States we face not just a market failure in housing – or a “housing crisis” – but a profound human rights crisis with regard to housing, as reflected in the following eye-opening facts:

- While there are approximately **3.5 million** homeless people in the United States, the number of vacant “people-less” homes has reached over **18.5 million**
- The average time applicants have to dropwait before they receive rental assistance in the form of Section 8 vouchers or public housing is **4-6 years**, which they will receive only if they can fulfill ever-narrowing eligibility requirements.
- While wealthy homeowner tax credits are entitlements that cost the U.S. government over **\$150 billion**, federal low-income housing program budgets combined equal roughly **\$30 billion**.
- Lenders filed a record **2.87 million** foreclosures in 2010, a figure that is projected to increase by **20 percent** in 2011. This translated into six to ten thousand foreclosures every day that year.

“Housing is not just a roof; it’s not just walls. It’s much more than that, and I know that housing has a sacred meaning attached to it. Territories are sacred. They are not only materials; they are spiritual, as well. So housing must have a community attached to it. A community and a territory - a territory where people can have access to the means of livelihood and not only be sheltered somewhere.”

Raquel Rolnik, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing

Join the human right to housing movement that is growing across the
country!

For more information, visit restorehousingrights.org