

Motion: THBT housing is a guaranteed right

Theme: Sociology

Summary

PROP	OPP
<p>Characterisation / Status quo</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This house is a moral society 2. This debate is about whether guaranteeing housing as a right is a good belief 3. Adequate housing will be provided 4. Guaranteeing housing rights will not automatically solve the global housing crisis 5. Impacts: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increased capital, resources and support for organisations solving the housing crisis b. Policy makers are realist in nature - they are responsible and responsive to what society believes; the dispersion of the belief that the unhoused are humans too in broader society spurs political, economic, ideological and practical change 	<p>Characterisation / Status quo</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There's a difference between an "ought" right and an "is" right (some basic rights such as access to food and water ought to be given to each individual for survival - assertion that housing is a human right doesn't prove why it's a guaranteed right) 2. This debate is about the truism of housing being a guaranteed right
<p>Stance</p> <p>-Broadly get society to declare housing as a guaranteed right</p>	<p>Stance</p> <p>-Housing is not a guaranteed right</p>
<p>Burden of proof</p> <p>-Why guaranteeing housing rights is a good belief</p>	<p>Burden of proof</p> <p>-Why housing is not a guaranteed right in status quo</p>
<p>Argument #1</p> <p>The principle of human dignity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing is fundamentally a human right and therefore is guaranteed 2. Why is this true? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Basic necessities are key tenets of well-being and life and are definitively also human rights → It's the reason why food, water, basic autonomy and free thought etc are principally core standards that constitute human life as opposed to inanimate or wildlife b. Social definition of human has always concerned communal relationships → In order to have safety and dignity, one must not be ostracised and coercively isolated by the rest of society → It's morally repugnant and inhumane to banish certain people 	<p>Argument #1</p> <p>Currently no effort to guarantee housing as a right + infeasibility</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 26.6 million people worldwide are unhoused despite the "guarantee" of the nations whose responsibility it is to provide for these citizens 2. Nations implement policies for mitigating homelessness without truly upholding the right to housing e.g. Scotland Recognises the guaranteed right of housing yet only pay up to 125,000 Euros in relief funds compared to the 236,000 it costs to rent the average single one-room apartment 3. Separation between the minimal government programs and private housing market e.g. Only 37 affordable and available homes exist every 100 extremely low income renter households in 2019 → Even if the US sought to pay for the

<p>as outcasts simply because they don't live in a "decent manner" enough as a society would like them to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Housing is instrumental to human self-dignity and self-concept → Our homes are primary aspects of our identity and serve as a materialisation of our place in society; we predicate much of our perceptive value on them d. Material disparities between unhoused people and the rest of society → Housing in central and foundational to education, healthcare, food, water, and sanitation → Injustice and discrimination that unequal access to housing upholds is a form of structural violence against human beings <p>3. Why does housing being a human right mean that it should be guaranteed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Having mechanised that housing is a human right, every human should pragmatically have access to a home; it is facilitated when it is guaranteed b. Human right = guaranteed right → Each describes a set of standards and protections applicable to all humans simply because of their existence as humans <p>4. Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. No matter the belief on the feasibility of this motion, the declaration of housing as a guaranteed right is principally good when housing propagates inhumane structural disparities and deprives many of self-concept and worth 	<p>rents of homes of all of these citizens, there would not be enough housing to ensure this right → Housing scarcities in the market to ensure maximum profits and economic growth in the private sector</p>
<p>Argument #2 Benefits to the unhoused</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lacking shelter threatens the immediate safety and long-term livelihood of all those who are unhoused <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lack of shelter makes you physically vulnerable to compromised health and bodily safety due to things like harsh weather conditions b. In a domestically violent relationship, the abuser isolates their victims from their support network (family, friends and anyone who may provide resources to escape). When the abuser has complete financial control over their 	<p>Argument #2 Inability to guarantee people can keep homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Underlying assumption of guaranteeing housing is those who are fortunate enough to have a place to call home are able to keep it 2. Even governments who say they guarantee housing often fall prey to eviction, eminent domain, and war or use them to their advantage to deprive people of the housing that they occupy e.g. 84 million people globally were removed from their home countries in 2021 - internally displaced citizens, refugees, asylum seekers 3. Landlords often show no mercy to those

<p>victims and require those finances, victims of domestic violence who leave the abusive relationship often end up unhoused → Individuals are deterred from escaping those situations in status quo and are forced to stay in those abusive relationships</p> <p>c. Unhoused to jail pipeline: A) Unhoused people are disproportionately antagonised due to the government criminalising actions that are necessary for unhoused individuals to survive day-to-day life; B) Implicates socioeconomic mobility as jail time is an automatic turn off for employers</p> <p>d. Lack of housing makes it impossible for unhoused people to forge their lives and permanently become entrenched in socioeconomic immobility → Social stigma: society runs rampant with negative perceptions (uncleanliness, inhumanity, laziness)</p>	<p>who fail to pay up, while displaced citizens are forced to watch the demolition of their homes for developmental purposes/supposed guaranteed rights to housing were not upheld</p> <p>4. Countries do not value the presence of all lives e.g. Somalia, Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan carry upwards of 68% of the world's refugees yet they continuously fight over who ought to take in these refugees. This power struggle leaves the people without homes.</p> <p>5. If a person who has housing today cannot be guaranteed that they will have it within the next year, how can governments possibly guarantee housing for those who don't even have homes in the first place?</p>
<p>Argument #3 Acknowledgement of housing as a guaranteed right evokes change</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The declaration of something as a right compels more popular support especially from policy makers and galvanises change 2. Large paradigm shifts of resources only occur when society believes something is important e.g. There was only a codified incentive to view the abolishment of slavery, protection of gay marriage and the institution of womens' rights as important when people adopted the morally unconditional belief that these ought to be guaranteed 3. Impact: The proclamation of housing as a human right leads to better policy making by applying the newfound declaration internationally and across issues 	<p>Argument #3 False guarantee for refugees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As refugees travel from one country to another, countries face a dilemma of harbouring a refugee that doesn't fall under the authority due to the inefficiencies of laws and governments → International and domestic laws both denote that as long as a refugee migrant is not within an egregiously small radius of a country's chosen location, that the said refugee is not under the country's authority → Refugees struggle to enter a country and fall under the gaze of any legislation; countries get to toss around responsibility concerning a refugee's livelihood