# **Submission to the Public Consultation on a Referendum on Housing in Ireland**

There is a housing crisis in Ireland and the impact is being felt by communities, individuals, families and children across the whole country. Subsequent governments have failed to tackle the crisis and children continue to be subjected to the trauma of living in homeless accommodation with no place to call their own. There will be no resolution to the housing crisis until we move away from seeing housing as an investment rather than a basic right. We must acknowledge that a home is central to the dignity of every person and that access to adequate housing is essential to balance the right to private property and the right to housing.

We support The UN’s definition of adequate housing which includes:

* Legal security of tenure
* Availability of services, materials and infrastructure
* Affordable housing
* Habitable housing
* Accessible housing
* Location
* Culturally adequate housing

We propose the following to the Housing Commission:

* that the Constitution be amended to make it clear that access to adequate, secure and affordable housing is essential.
* that a referendum is called as soon as is practical after the Commission publishes its report.
* that the Commission in its report will include a proposal for the wording for a referendum on the right to housing.

We support the proposed wording for an amendment to the Constitution as put forward by Home of Good (group comprised of academic, legal, housing, and homelessness experts)

**Recommendation: The insertion of a new Article 43A on Housing in the Constitution as follows:**

* ***Housing Article 43A***
1. ***The State recognises, and shall vindicate, the right of all persons to have access to adequate housing.***
2. ***The State shall, through legislative and other measures, provide for the realisation of this right within its available resources.***

We believe that these actions will be a first step in ensuring everyone has access to adequate housing.

**NAME**

**ORGANISATION**

**CONTACT DETAILS**