

HOUSING IS A
HUMAN RIGHT

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



DRAW ATTENTION TO HOUSING ISSUES



Children look on as a pig roots through a rubbish-filled stream in Moya Wharf, a fishing village just behind Princess Christian Maternity Hospital in Freetown, Sierra Leone, February 2009.

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MORE THAN A BILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD LIVE IN SLUM COMMUNITIES

ACTION

Petition decision-makers in a creative way to highlight some of the issues faced by people living in slum communities. These issues include forced evictions, the threat of violence from police and criminal gangs, as well as a lack of basic services, such as safe water, sanitation, health, and education.

GETTING STARTED

Think about the issues that affect slum-dwellers communities in your city or country. What needs to change and who has the power to bring about these changes?

IDEAS

- At an event or rally, set up a stall where people can create their own personalized “bricks” out of card, paper or boxes. Ask them to write their name and a message on their brick

– this could be about an issue that slum communities face or a message of support. Remember to use the campaign symbol as well. You could also ask local schools to take part and donate bricks that children have made.

- Use the bricks to build a Demand Dignity house that you can display in a public place. This could be a community space or somewhere symbolic, such as government buildings, law courts or the offices of property developers.
- Create a petition about an issue that affects people who live in slum communities in your city or country. Design your petition as a simple house made up of a number of bricks (real or figurative). Ask people to sign their name on a brick – they can add a message as well to show their support for people who live in slum communities or to demand that action is taken to protect their human rights.

- Before you hand your petition in, see if you can display it in a public place so that you get more media coverage and more signatures.
- These activities could be carried out at another Demand Dignity event – for example, at a music event – see Action card 9.

PRACTICAL ISSUES

- Make sure the media know what you are doing – see Action card 4.
- Have activists on hand who can sign people up to Demand Dignity and Amnesty International.