

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS OVER THE YEAR 2019

## Introduction

**Housing and Land Rights Network was founded in 1999 in New Delhi to promote the recognition and realization of the human rights to adequate housing and land of the most marginalized and excluded individuals, groups, and communities. The year 2019 marks the completion of 20 years of our founding. We have consistently worked on mainstreaming the human rights approach to housing and land issues across India and at multiple levels. Our work has spanned a wide spectrum from local communities to the United Nations. This report presents an overview of the main activities and impacts of our work over the year 2019.**

## I. Building Stronger Grassroots Housing Rights Leadership in India

### Housing Rights Fellowship Programme

In 2016, HLRN initiated a housing rights fellowship programme with the objective of developing the capacity of residents of low-income settlements and persons living in homelessness, in order to strengthen their communities and work for the realization of housing and related human rights. Over the years, the programme has expanded and the work of the fellows has become integral to the struggles for housing rights in their areas. Presently, HLRN is supporting six fellows in five states: Delhi, Karnataka, Manipur, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Each fellow is working with an HLRN partner organization.

The housing rights fellows, in alliance with their host organizations, were responsible for the following achievements in 2019:

- Preventing forced evictions in over 15 sites in Chennai, Delhi, and Manipur;
- Facilitating access to justice for evicted and displaced persons;
- Improving access to basic services, including water, electricity, and education in informal settlements and resettlement sites;
- Providing human rights education among the youth, women, and others living in informal settlements and homeless clusters;
- Organizing homeless women, promoting their awareness on state schemes and entitlements, and helping them to advocate for their human rights;
- Documenting forced evictions and conducting fact-finding visits;
- Facilitating and organizing community meetings on issues related to displacement;
- Advising communities on strategies to adopt and mechanisms to approach for relief, redress, and justice, and assisting them with various activities related to prevention of displacement;
- Documenting oral histories of marginalized communities;
- Creating a team of youth activists living in informal settlements in Delhi;
- Participating in consultations on the draft Karnataka state housing law;
- Creating a crèche for children in a settlement in Bengaluru;
- Organizing successful media campaigns to highlight inadequate living conditions in resettlement sites; and,
- Engaging in advocacy that resulted in improved street lighting, secure gates, and improved police services in resettlement sites in Delhi and Chennai.

## Work of the Housing Rights Fellows in Images



**Delhi:** Training youth and local leaders in the settlement of Yamuna Khadar, Delhi



**Bengaluru:** Housing-beneficiary survey at Kacherkanahally



**Chennai:** Signature campaign on adequate housing for the urban homeless



**Odisha:** Fact-finding visit to Bhalugadia Village, Talcher, Angul



**Manipur:** Community meeting at Phalong Village – where communities face threat of displacement from the proposed construction of a road

## Human Rights Education and Publication

Given our commitment to human rights education, HLRN continued to engage with a range of constituencies and participated in various forums to promote awareness and understanding of the human rights to adequate housing, land, and related rights; relevant government schemes and policies; available options for communities to access justice; national human rights mechanisms; and, the United Nations. This included organizing meetings and workshops in local communities; participating in and speaking at seminars, workshops, and conferences; writing to government officials and sharing important human rights documents and publications; and, disseminating publications and tools on the human rights to adequate housing and land. Human rights education also includes regularly writing on these issues and engaging strategically with the media (see Annexure for more information).



Human rights training workshop with affected communities in Delhi

At HLRN, we also focus on creating user-friendly tools and resources to promote knowledge on housing and land rights among a range of constituencies and actors. In this regard, we updated and republished our *Handbook on the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement*.

In April 2019, we finalized a two-year research project on positive case law on housing in India and released a new publication titled, *Adjudicating the Human Right to Adequate Housing: Analysis of Important Judgments from Indian High Courts*. The publication compiles and analyses important High Court judgments that have recognized and upheld the human right to adequate housing, acknowledged inadequate living conditions of lower-income groups, and emphasized positive obligations of the state with regard to recognition and protection of these human rights, including to housing. It highlights that — in the absence of rights-based housing laws and policies — justiciability of the right to housing has been limited and the approach of the judiciary has been inconsistent while adjudicating the right. The publication is viewed as a resource to help build

jurisprudence on the right to housing while strengthening the use of legal precedence in India on the issue of housing rights.

## II. Addressing Discrimination and Promoting Land Rights

### Housing and Land Rights of ‘Farm Widows’

Among women in India, one of the most marginalized constituencies is that of widows. After the death of their husbands, a large percentage of women in both urban and rural areas are denied their rights to their marital homes, land, and other property. They face extreme ostracism and stigmatization. These impacts are also suffered by their children. For the last three years, HLRN has been working with women affected by farm suicides in west India. In collaboration with Prakriti, we have facilitated research and advocacy related to promoting the rights of women farmers affected by farm suicides. The work has revealed multiple levels of discrimination faced by affected women but also affirmed the need to continue working with them and to raise their issues at the state, national, and international levels.

As a result of collaborative work and advocacy resulting from HLRN and Prakriti’s 2017 study *Surviving Stigma: Housing and Land Rights of Farm Widows of Vidarbha, Maharashtra*, the Government of Maharashtra issued a positive government regulation calling for land of widows whose husbands die by suicide to be transferred to them. We are working with Prakriti to disseminate information on this order across the affected areas of the state and to assist women with education and empowerment to ensure its implementation.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day 2019, HLRN supported and co-organized—with Prakriti—a consultation with affected women in Nagpur. Forty-two widows from suicide-affected households from four districts of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra: Akola, Amravati, Yavatmal, and Wardha participated in the consultation. Women shared their pain and also discussed challenges in accessing state schemes and entitlements. Government officials also participated in the consultation, answered questions raised by the affected women, and promised to take action to assist them in overcoming major obstacles.



Consultation with women from farm suicide-affected families: Nagpur



## India Land and Development Conference

Housing and Land Rights Network was one of the core organizers of the India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) 2019. Aimed at promoting inter-disciplinary research, dialogue, and strategic alliances, the Conference brings together multiple actors from across India and other countries for three days every year, to discuss and deliberate on issues related to land rights and governance. In collaboration with partner organizations, HLRN organized three panels at the Conference.

***a) Women, Farming, and Land Rights [Organized by HLRN and Ekta Parishad]***



***b) Land Rights and Governance in Northeast India [Organized by HLRN, Rongmei Naga Baptist Association, Nagaland, and NRMC – Centre for Land Governance]***



***c) Land Rights of the Urban Poor in the Context of Smart Cities and Forced Evictions [Organized by HLRN]***



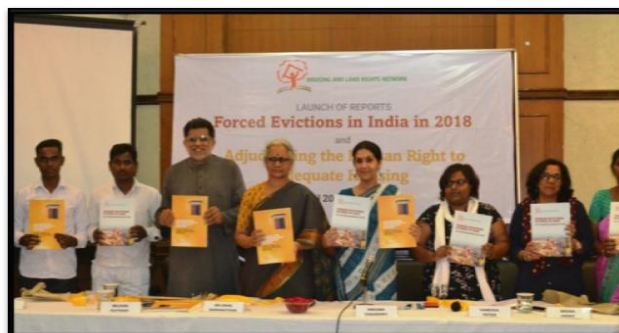
## Monitoring the Status of Land Rights Defenders

Individuals who defend human rights are often targeted by the state as well as non-state actors and are subjected to violence, defamation, intimidation, arbitrary arrests, sexual harassment, and illegal detention. This is a serious issue that has also been highlighted by several UN Special Rapporteurs, but is not receiving the attention it deserves nationally, by both the media and policy-makers. Acts of targeting human rights defenders, especially those defending homes and lands against corporate and state takeover, are aimed at suppressing the housing and land rights movement. Given the severity of this largely unreported crisis, HLRN is working on monitoring violations of housing and land rights defenders in the country and collaborating with institutions to seek remedy and relief.

## III. Addressing Forced Evictions and Displacement, and Improving Access to Housing

### National Eviction and Displacement Observatory

In 2016, HLRN established a National Eviction and Displacement Observatory, which is the only source of data on forced evictions and displacement in India. As part of its documentation work, in April 2019, HLRN released its annual report titled, *Forced Evictions in India in 2018: An Unabating National Crisis*. The report reveals that in 2018, at least 202,200 people, across urban and rural India, were forcefully evicted by government authorities, at both the central and state levels. Furthermore, it documents that about 11.3 million people live under the threat of eviction across the country. The report also offers recommendations to address the crisis of evictions and protect the human rights to land and adequate housing.



Launch of HLRN Reports: Forced Evictions in India in 2018 and Adjudicating the Human Right to Adequate Housing

The report was launched on 9 April 2019 by eminent experts including Dr Usha Ramanathan (researcher on the jurisprudence of law, poverty, and rights), Mr Miloon Kothari (former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing), Ms Vanessa Peter (policy researcher, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities, Chennai), Ms Beena Jadav (Founder, Rahethan Adhikar Manch/Housing Rights and Human Rights Group, Gujarat) and Ms Shivani Chaudhry (Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network). The report was widely disseminated to the government at the central and state levels, national and state human rights institutions, journalists, non-government organizations, universities, and other interested groups.

### Preventing Forced Evictions

As a result of timely and effective intervention by HLRN and facilitation of close coordination with lawyers and communities, we were able to prevent the demolition of over 3,600 houses in Delhi. Timely intervention and negotiation with authorities also prevented the demolition of homes and

shops of Delhi's Gadia Lohar community two settlements. Working in coordination with other organizations, HLRN succeeded in receiving favourable orders, including stay orders on eviction, from the High Court of Delhi in cases related to five sites.

In Chennai, joint efforts resulted in the prevention of forced eviction in eight settlements, benefitting about 3,500 families. An urgent communication sent to the World Bank regarding the proposed relocation of families in Chennai, has led to a review of the relocation project and stronger discussions around the need for a housing policy in Tamil Nadu.

In April 2019, the High Court of Delhi, in the case of *Ajay Maken v. Union of India*, issued a landmark judgment recognizing the right to housing as a human right. The HLRN team played a crucial role in bringing accurate and timely intervention to the notice of the Court during the hearings in this case over the last four years. After the judgment was issued, HLRN conducted a community meeting in Shakur Basti to inform residents about the order, including its call for a moratorium on forced evictions without notice and adequate rehabilitation.



Meeting with residents of Shakur Basti, New Delhi

## Emergency Response for Victims of Forced Eviction

In the immediate aftermath of a forced eviction, affected families experience severe losses and extreme distress resulting from the destruction of their homes and personal belongings. They are generally rendered homeless, without any shelter or access to food, bedding, cooking items, and other essential items that they lose during sudden demolitions. In 2019, HLRN provided relief to families affected by forced evictions in over 10 sites across Delhi. We also organized food and other essential services, in coordination with relief organizations, in settlements that suffered loss of housing and personal property due to fire.



Relief provided by HLRN in sites affected by forced eviction and fire in Delhi

Farmers in Chilla Khadar, Delhi experienced severe flooding of their homes during the monsoon season. The HLRN team assisted with procuring and setting up temporary tents for families to live in, until the flood waters subsided.



Tents provided for displaced families living along the River Yamuna banks

## Eviction Impact Assessment Tool

The Eviction Impact Assessment (EvIA) Tool developed by HLRN is the only existing human rights-based mechanism to assess the impacts of forced evictions globally. The Tool aims to ascertain and document the real costs and losses resulting from forced evictions and displacement. It is based on the premise that any attempt to calculate the impact of forced evictions on affected communities would have to include the loss of both material and non-material values.

In 2019, HLRN worked on a project to document the disproportionate and long-term impacts of forced eviction on women and girls who witnessed demolition of their homes in 2017 in the Gadia Lohar settlement of Mansarovar Park in Delhi. The HLRN team conducted focus group discussions with the women and then developed a questionnaire for the Eviction Impact Assessment. Subsequently, we organized a training programme for the youth of the Gadia Lohar community to assist with the impact assessment study.



Training on the HLRN EvIA Tool and questionnaire with community members in the HLRN office



Household level survey of women in Mansarovar Park, New Delhi

## Working with Excluded Communities

The Gadia Lohar community is a historically marginalized, formerly nomadic community known for the small-scale manufacture and sale of ironwork on their carts (*gadiya*). Gadia Lohars are extremely impoverished and live in highly inadequate conditions across the country, including in Delhi and neighbouring areas. They are severely affected by incidents of forced eviction and lack access to essential services and benefits of government schemes. Despite being settled in Delhi for several decades, their settlements have not been surveyed or recognized by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) and consequently, are not eligible for resettlement or permanent housing under the Delhi Slum and JJ Rehabilitation and Relocation Policy 2015. Also, despite being considered a Nomadic Tribe as per the Draft List of Denotified Tribes, Nomadic Tribes and Semi-Nomadic Tribes of India, proposed by the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, they lack access to housing, basic services, and benefits of government schemes.

Given the persistent marginalization of the community, HLRN commenced working with its members in Delhi in 2018, and since then has helped to mobilize and organize the community that lives in 67 settlements across the city. We have facilitated the formation of the *Gadia Lohar Sangharsh Samiti* (Gadia Lohar Struggle Committee), and organized their first public forum in the city. To address the systemic exclusion of the community, community members sent 1,000 postcards to the Prime Minister of India, which led to his mentioning the creation of a ‘Gadia Lohar Welfare Board’ in a public speech.



Training workshop for youth of the Gadia Lohar Community in Delhi

In 2019, with the aim of promoting their right to housing and documenting their living conditions, HLRN worked closely with the community on a collaborative primary research study. A survey designed by HLRN and community members was carried out in 58 settlements. The findings of the study were analysed and published in a report in English and Hindi titled, *Mapping the Marginalized: Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community*.



Mapping the Marginalized: Launch of report on Delhi's Gadia Lohar community at a press conference in Delhi

Launched on 18 September 2019 by Shri Balakrishna Renake (Former Chairperson, National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes) and members of Delhi's Gadia Lohar community, the report has been widely used for advocacy with the Delhi government and relevant human rights institutions.

#### Impact of HLRN's Report on Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community

- The findings of HLRN's study were presented to the Chief Minister of Delhi by a delegation of HLRN staff and members of the Gadia Lohar community.
- The Chief Minister of Delhi directed his office to take **immediate action on the recommendations** presented in the report and **halt evictions** in Gadia Lohar settlements and conduct a survey of all settlements listed in the report and include them in Delhi's housing and rehabilitation scheme.
- As a result, many of the Gadia Lohar settlements are being **surveyed** by the state government for inclusion in the *Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana* (Chief Minister's Housing Scheme).
- Access to essential services and healthcare has also improved in several settlements, including through the regular visit of mobile medical vans.

### Promoting the Right to Resettlement and Human Rights-based 'In Situ' Upgrading and Rehabilitation

Housing and Land Rights Network has always stood against forced relocation of communities to remote resettlement sites and advocated for in situ upgrading of housing through a participatory and human rights-based approach. State governments across India, however, continue to favour the forced removal of low-income communities to inadequate sites situated on city peripheries without access to adequate housing and essential social and physical infrastructure. Where resettlement is preferred by communities, we continue to strive for the human right to resettlement and for a just, participatory, and humane resettlement process.

Over 2019, concerted efforts of HLRN to ensure rehabilitation led to the allotment of flats to families displaced by forced evictions in Kali Bari, Delhi, and to the construction of temporary houses under the Safdarjung Flyover, where evictions had been carried out in January 2019. Regular meetings were also conducted at the resettlement sites of Baprola and Dwarka to assess the adequacy of housing and living conditions and to remedy problems faced by residents. Some of the families resettled in Dwarka received arbitrary notices for eviction. The HLRN team helped them seek legal aid and prevented their imminent eviction.

Collaborative efforts with local organizations resulted in significant improvements in Chennai's resettlement site of Perumbakkam. A joint study assessing the current housing and living conditions of families evicted from Porur Lake (Chennai) in 2006, was published and released in November 2019.



Assisting families that received eviction notices in Dwarka to access legal aid and justice

## Improving Living Conditions in Informal Settlements, including Sites of Eviction

Housing and Land Rights Network, through its interventions, has also focused on improving living conditions in informal settlements, including sites where evictions and demolitions of homes have occurred. For instance, the Shakur Basti settlement that comprises over 3,500 houses lacks access to essential amenities like water and electricity. As a result of HLRN's sustained advocacy, 14 hand pumps for water were installed in the settlement in 2019, and about 600 families received electricity connections. Work on providing electrical connections is ongoing for other families.



Families with new electrical connections in Shakur Basti, as a result of HLRN's efforts

The HLRN team met with government officials to request the installation of 14 CCTV cameras at the resettlement site in Dwarka, to ensure safety and security of women. As a result, seven CCTV cameras have already been installed at the site.

## IV. Reducing the Degree and Extent of Homelessness across India, and Strengthening the National Movement Working against Homelessness

### Advocacy to Promote the Human Rights of People Living in Homelessness

For the seventh consecutive year, HLRN continued to host and act as the Secretariat for *Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath* (SAM:BKS or Urban Rights Forum: With the Homeless) – a collective of over 20 organizations working on homelessness in Delhi, which HLRN was instrumental in creating in 2008.

During the year, HLRN worked to improve living conditions of the homeless population and also engaged in human rights education work with various constituencies living in homelessness. We conducted regular meetings and training sessions with homeless persons throughout Delhi to sensitize them about their human rights, including the human right to adequate housing, and assist them with accessing government schemes and policies.

We regularly assess living conditions in homeless shelters and on the streets and submit reports to the government and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) on required improvements. We also consistently engaged in advocating for a summer, monsoon, and winter action plan to address the severe heat and cold wave, which resulted in loss of lives of many homeless persons in Delhi.



Monitoring conditions in homeless shelters in Delhi

During the winter, HLRN's sustained efforts with the Delhi government led to the installation of temporary shelters/tents in several areas of the city. Intensive night vigils were also conducted every week to monitor the situation of people living on the streets and to provide them with immediate relief such as blankets, medical aid, and food.



Emergency relief, including blankets, provided by HLRN to people living on the streets in Delhi

*Some impacts of HLRN's interventions:*

- Establishment of tents in various sites in Delhi for the winter.
- Installation of coolers and fans in several shelters during the summer.
- Installation of toilets in areas with high concentration of homeless persons.
- Reopening of shelters that had been closed by DUSIB after the winter.
- Preventing the closure of the homeless shelter at Bangla Sahib, which provides shelter to many homeless persons, including families, single women, and children.



Public Forum with Homeless Women on International Women's Day

## **Voter Cards for Homeless Persons**

Before the elections, HLRN in collaboration with SAM:BKS members, engaged in an intensive campaign to assist homeless persons in applying for voter cards to enable them to exercise their right to vote. This resulted in 834 persons getting voter cards in May 2019. This was a significant victory, as many homeless persons were able to vote for the first time in their lives. Through this

initiative, over 12,000 homeless persons were enrolled in the country's electoral rolls till December 2019.



Homeless persons with their new voter cards, after voting in May 2019

### Campaign on 'Adequate Housing for People Living in Homelessness'

On 2 October 2019, on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary and to commemorate the occasions of Habitat Day (first Monday of October) and World Homeless Day (10 October), HLRN launched a Campaign on Adequate Housing for the Homeless. Given the grossly inadequate living conditions of homeless persons and their daily violations of human rights, HLRN launched this Campaign to strengthen their struggle for human rights, dignity, and adequate housing, beyond state-provided shelters.

As part of the Campaign, weekly community meetings were organized in various locales across Delhi, including in homeless shelters and on the streets, to raise awareness among homeless persons on the legal provisions of the human right to adequate housing for all; to understand and help articulate their demands and concerns related to housing; and to record their recommendations for the government. Through the Campaign, more than 1,000 homeless persons submitted a petition to the Chief Minister of Delhi on Human Rights Day to appeal for urgent interventions to recognize their human right to adequate housing.

Special events were organized to mark **World Habitat Day**, **World Homeless Day**, and **Human Rights Day** with homeless communities in Delhi. To commemorate **Children's Day** (14 November in India) and World Children's Day (20 November), HLRN launched a special campaign on Children's Right to Adequate Housing. To highlight specific vulnerabilities of homeless children, they sent 800 postcards, designed by them, to the Chief Minister of Delhi, the Prime Minister of India, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, and the Chief Secretary of Delhi. Homeless residents from different areas of Delhi also sent postcards to the Delhi and central government articulating their urgent needs and concerns. Through the Campaign, HLRN reached out to over 5,000 homeless people across Delhi in 2019.

#### Impact of HLRN's 'Campaign on Adequate Housing for the Homeless' in 2019

- Through the Campaign, HLRN reached out to over **5,000 homeless people** across Delhi in 2019.
- As part of the Campaign, more than **1,000 homeless persons** submitted a **petition** to the Chief Minister of Delhi on Human Rights Day to appeal for urgent interventions to recognize their human right to adequate housing.
- More than **800 homeless people, including children**, from different areas of Delhi sent **postcards** to the Delhi and central government articulating their urgent needs and concerns.
- **Special events** for Delhi's homeless community were organized through the Campaign to mark important days, such as World Habitat Day, World Homeless Day, Children's Day, and Human Rights Day.

## Meetings and Consultations Organized under HLRN's Campaign on Adequate Housing in Delhi



Public consultations organized in homeless shelters to discuss the right to housing



Public consultations held on the streets where people live

## Special Events Celebrated with Delhi's Homeless Community as part of HLRN's Campaign



World Habitat Day celebrations in Shakur Basti, New Delhi



World Homeless Day commemoration at Pusa Road, New Delhi



Children's Day celebrations in Barakhamba Park, Nizamuddin



Gathering at the Sant Nagar shelter for homeless families on Human Rights Day

## V. Using the Human Rights Approach to Influence and Monitor Law and Policy Development at the National and International Level

### Working with United Nations Mechanisms to Promote Human Rights in India

One of HLRN's important contributions to the human rights work in India has been its ability to effectively connect local and national struggles with international mechanisms and processes, especially at the United Nations (UN). In this regard, HLRN regularly engages with relevant UN human rights mechanisms, especially the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, and the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council.

In 2019, HLRN contributed to the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing by participating in an expert meeting to develop standards to implement the right to housing and by submitting a contribution to her report on the right to housing of indigenous peoples. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the 'Right to Adequate Housing of Indigenous Peoples,' which also cites HLRN, is available at: <https://www.undocs.org/A/74/183>. The HLRN submission is available at: [bit.ly/3pSDrP7](https://bit.ly/3pSDrP7)



Expert meeting organized by the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing: May 2019

We also assisted local communities to connect with UN Special Procedures and submitted information on forced evictions and related housing and land rights violations to the relevant mandate holders.

We submitted suggestions for a ‘List of Issues’ to the Human Rights Committee, which will be examining India’s implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in the absence of India’s official report. The HLRN submission is available at: [bit.ly/2HvgVKC](https://bit.ly/2HvgVKC)

Over the course of the year, HLRN also spoke at, and participated in various workshops and conferences, including the following international conferences:

- Climate Change, Just Transition, and Cities (Berlin, May 2019)
- Summer School on Housing Rights (Kyrgyzstan, June 2019)

## **Twenty Years Commemoration**

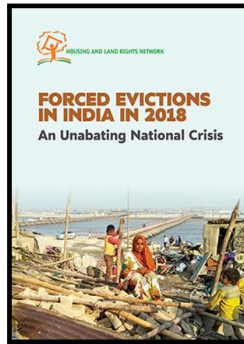
In September 2019, HLRN completed 20 years of work. To mark the occasion, we designed and launched a new logo. All activities and events since September 2019 have been linked to the commemoration of our twentieth year. We are grateful to all our supporters and co-travellers, including partner organizations, donors, independent institutions, and all the communities we work with, who have helped us reach where we are.

## ANNEXURE

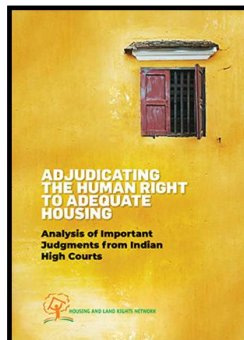
### HLRN Publications, Press Releases, and Press Citations in 2019

#### A. HLRN Publications

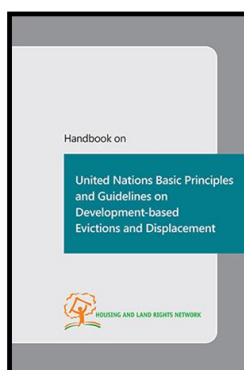
##### 1) Forced Evictions in India in 2018: An Unabating National Crisis (April 2019)



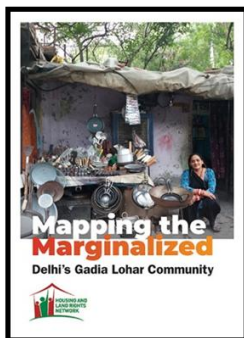
##### 2) Adjudicating the Human Right to Adequate Housing: Analysis of Important Judgments from Indian High Courts (April 2019)



##### 3) Fifth Edition of the Handbook on the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement



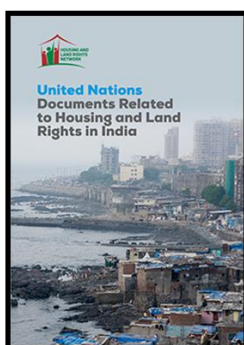
4) **Mapping the Marginalized: Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community** (September 2019)



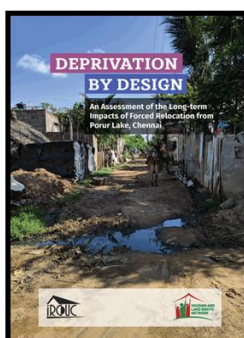
5) **Mapping the Marginalized: Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community – Hindi Report** (September 2019)



6) **United Nations Documents Related to Land and Housing Rights in India [Update 2019]** (October 2019)



7) **Deprivation by Design: An Assessment of the Long-term Impacts of Forced Relocation from Porur Lake, Chennai** (December 2019)



## **B. HLRN Press Releases**

- 1) 9 April 2019 | New Report Highlights the Unrelenting Crisis of Forced Evictions: Finds Over 200,000 Persons Evicted in India in 2018; Over 114 Houses Demolished Every Day, 23 People Evicted Every Hour
- 2) 18 September 2019 | New Report Highlights Dismal Living Conditions of Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community: Urges Government to Take Immediate Action to Prevent Further Marginalization:  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Gadia\\_Lohar\\_Report.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Gadia_Lohar_Report.pdf)
- 3) 18 September 2019 | नई रिपोर्ट दिल्ली के गाड़िया लोहार समुदाय की दयनीय जीवन-दशा को उजागर करती है (in Hindi)  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Gadia\\_Lohar\\_Hindi.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Gadia_Lohar_Hindi.pdf)
- 4) 10 October 2019 | Campaign on 'Adequate Housing for the Homeless' launched | World Homeless Day Commemorated with Delhi's Homeless Community:  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_World\\_Homeless\\_Day\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_World_Homeless_Day_2019.pdf)
- 5) 6 November 2019 | New HLRN Publication Released: United Nations Documents Related to Land and Housing Rights in India:  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/UN\\_Documents\\_Housing\\_Land\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/UN_Documents_Housing_Land_2019.pdf)
- 6) 29 November 2019 | Study on Long-term Impacts of Relocation from Porur Lake Released; Highlights Adverse Living Conditions after 13 Years of Resettlement:  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Porur\\_Lake\\_Study\\_2019.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Porur_Lake_Study_2019.pdf)

## **C. Published Articles by HLRN Staff**

- 1) **Making Smart Cities Inclusive**  
[IHC Global]  
<https://ihcglobal.org/2019/06/03/smart-city-just-city-blog-series-2-2-2-2/>
- 2) **The Human Right to Adequate Housing in India: Obstacles and Challenges**  
[Georgetown Journal of International Affairs]  
<https://www.georgetownjournalofinternationalaffairs.org/online-edition/2019/3/22/the-human-right-to-adequate-housing-in-india-obstacles-and-challenges>

## **D. Media Reports Citing HLRN and its Work<sup>1</sup>**

### **How close is India to getting 100 Smart Cities?**

16 January 2019 – Scroll.in

<https://scroll.in/article/908394/the-modi-years-how-close-is-india-to-getting-100-smart-cities>

### **In Asia's space-starved cities, urban planners bring 'dead' land to life**

16 January 2019 – Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-thailand-landrights-plan/in-asias-space-starved-cities-urban-planners-bring-dead-land-to-life-idUSKCN1PA0KS>

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