

---

## A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING **HOMELESSNESS**

---



**Ruff Institute of  
Global Homelessness**

The IGH Global Framework captures three broad categories of people who may be considered homeless, defined as “lacking access to minimally adequate housing.” For local definitions, countries or cities may include some of these categories and not others. Rather than a list that must be accepted in full everywhere, the Framework offers a shared vocabulary for collaboration across countries. The lead authors are Professors Volker Busch-Geertsema, Dennis Culhane and Suzanne Fitzpatrick.

People without accommodation	People living in temporary or crisis accommodation	People living in severely inadequate and insecure accommodation
<p><b>1A</b> People sleeping in the streets or in other open spaces (such as parks, railway embankments, under bridges, on pavement, on riverbanks, in forests, etc.).</p> <p><b>1B</b> People sleeping in public roofed spaces or buildings not intended for human habitation (such as bus and railway stations, taxi ranks, derelict buildings, public buildings, etc.).</p> <p><b>1C</b> People sleeping in their cars, rickshaws, open fishing boats and other forms of transport.</p> <p><b>1D</b> “Pavement dwellers” - individuals or households who live on the street in a regular spot, usually with some form of makeshift cover.</p>	<p><b>2A</b> People staying in night shelters (where occupants have to renegotiate their accommodation nightly).</p> <p><b>2B</b> People living in homeless hostels and other types of temporary accommodation for homeless people (where occupants have a designated bed or room).</p> <p><b>2C</b> Women and children living in refuges for those fleeing domestic violence.</p> <p><b>2D</b> People living in camps provided for “internally displaced people” i.e. those who have fled their homes as a result of armed conflict, natural or human-made disasters, human rights violations, development projects, etc. but have not crossed international borders.</p> <p><b>2E</b> People living in camps or reception centres/temporary accommodation for asylum seekers, refugees and other immigrants.</p>	<p><b>3A</b> People sharing with friends and relatives on a temporary basis.</p> <p><b>3B</b> People living under threat of violence.</p> <p><b>3C</b> People living in cheap hotels, bed and breakfasts and similar.</p> <p><b>3D</b> People squatting in conventional housing.</p> <p><b>3E</b> People living in conventional housing that is unfit for human habitation.</p> <p><b>3F</b> People living in trailers, caravans and tents.</p> <p><b>3G</b> People living in extremely overcrowded conditions.</p> <p><b>3H</b> People living in “non-conventional” buildings and temporary structures, including those living in slums/ informal settlements.</p>

Visit [www.ighomelessness.org](http://www.ighomelessness.org) for updates on this and other initiatives in support of an emerging global movement to end homelessness.