



Contribution to the OHCHR Report on “LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

*Submitted by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion,
Participatory Democracy and Human Rights*

The following report gathers a compilation of local government-led experiences and initiatives in the field of human rights that have been presented in the framework of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights. This report is based on news, interviews and reports published in the Committee’s website, or on documents facilitated by local government representatives throughout political meetings and processes held in the framework of the Committee throughout the last years. Referenced policies are currently being implemented or have been implemented in recent years.

I - LAWS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Local government action on human rights has historically placed an important focus over **awareness-raising and education programmes**. **Lisbon**¹ launched in 2015 the Programme SOMOS, with a view to develop a culture of human rights and democratic citizenship through awareness-raising campaigns tackling human rights in general and discrimination in particular. **Goicoechea**² municipality (Costa Rica) counts with a local human rights office (*Oficina de Diversidad*³) that develops awareness-raising campaigns on non-discrimination, gender equality and diversity. **Nador**⁴ (Morocco) focuses on tackling racism through events in the public space. In France, the city of **Grenoble**⁵ has taken action by developing a comprehensive guide⁶ (2017) aimed at raising awareness among foreign residents on how to access human rights such as the right to a nationality, asylum or housing. On the other hand, the city of **Seoul**⁷ offers a concrete experience in the field of human rights education programmes for public workers, reaching more than 40,000 officers until 2016. **Barcelona**’s human rights education programmes have not only targeted local public workers, but also focused on building the capacities of local civil society and human rights defenders (see two^{8 9} training events organized in 2018).

¹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/somos-lisbon-aims-developing-human-rights-culture-and-democratic-citizenship>

² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/promoting-%E2%80%9Chuman-development%E2%80%9D-through-approach-based-participation-and-human-rights>

³ <http://www.munigoicoechea.com/index.php/desarrollo-humano/paginaoficinadiversidad>

⁴ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/guaranteeing-universal-rights-city-crossed-migratory-routes-nadors-local-action>

⁵ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/grenoble-fosters-participation-and-human-rights-all-its-inhabitants-through-notion>

⁶ <http://www.gre-mag.fr/site/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Guide-CoFraCIR.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/seoul-municipal-government-division-works-mainstream-rights-approach-local-public>

⁸ https://www.barcelona.cat/infobarcelona/ca/tema/ajuntament/una-escola-per-defensar-els-drets-humans-a-la-ciutat_707013.html

⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/es/actualidad/noticias/una-sesi3n-de-formaci3n-sobre-mecanismos-internacionales-de-defensa-de-los>

2. Many initiatives in the field of education and awareness-raising maintain strong links with the issue of **non-discrimination**. **Barcelona**'s¹⁰ Office for Non-Discrimination has promoted for almost 20 years policies of non-discrimination based on offering local mechanisms for human rights guarantee and promotion. Other signatory cities of the European Charter for Human Rights in the City¹¹, such as **Nuremberg**¹² or **Venice**¹³ count with similar offices for non-discrimination up to date, and **New York**¹⁴ has consolidated a Human Rights Commission charged with NYC Human Rights Law¹⁵ enforcement and non-discrimination. **Bologna**¹⁶ has put in place in 2018 a local plan for non-discrimination in regards to "new citizenship and human rights" after the city's participation in the European Project AMITIE CODE¹⁷; while **Budapest**¹⁸ General Assembly adopted in 2017 an "Equal Opportunities Strategy" focusing on assessing the situation of vulnerable groups and supporting inclusiveness in access to public services.
3. Closely inter-related with non-discrimination are also other local **mechanisms for human rights guarantee**, such as local ombudsperson. The metropolitan government of **Gwangju**¹⁹, in South Korea, counts for example with various ombudsperson that carry out investigations in the fields of gender equality or labour; while **Barcelona**²⁰ *Síndica de Greuges* focuses on citizens' complaints regarding local public administration (very much like **Charleroi's** (Belgium) institution of "*médiateur communal*"²¹. Colombia's capital city of **Bogotá**²² counts with a local *Veeduría distrital* charged with promoting transparency, accountable government and participation as human rights. **Terrassa**, on the other hand, has pioneered a democratic monitoring of the city's commitment towards the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City by creating a Citizen Committee for the follow-up and promotion of the ECSRHC²³.
4. Similar to guarantee, many local governments have also implemented **human rights protection and respect mechanisms**; in this case, focusing on a broad set of topics. **Madrid**²⁴ set in place in 2018 an ambitious local programme ("*Madrid protege*") that combines protection mechanisms for human rights defenders from across the world with education initiatives at home. Member-local governments of the **Catalan Fund of Municipalities for Cooperation**²⁵ (Fons Català) have promoted for years a similar programme called "*Ciutats Defensores de Drets Humans*" (Human Rights' Defenders Cities). The city of **Geneva**²⁶ supports the Martin Ennals Award to protect human rights defenders in conflict zones; while **Mexico City**²⁷ counts with a consolidated programme for voluntary disarmament in order to promote a local culture of peace.
5. Some local governments have assessed human rights action in regards to respect mechanisms through promoting **human rights-based criteria in public procurement** (as in the case of

¹⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/es/observatorio/la-oficina-para-la-no-discriminaci%C3%B3n-una-pol%C3%ADtica-de-barcelona-para-garantizar-los>

¹¹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-cities-and-territories-europe-what-realities-and-what-perspectives>

¹² https://www.nuernberg.de/internet/menschenrechte_e/

¹³ <https://www.comune.venezia.it/it/content/diretti-civili-politiche-contro-le-discriminazioni-e-cultura-lgbtq>

¹⁴ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/about/inside-cchr.page>

¹⁵ <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cchr/law/the-law.page>

¹⁶ <http://www.comune.bologna.it/news/piano-di-azione-locale-contro-le-discriminazioni-razziali>

¹⁷ <http://www.amitiecode.eu/project>

¹⁸ http://www.pestesely.hu/doc/FHEP_2017_22.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/report-gwangju%E2%80%99s-delegation-barcelona-and-visit-secretariat-our-committee-and-uclg>

²⁰ <http://www.sindicadegreugesbcn.cat/en/index.php>

²¹ <https://www.charleroi.be/node/2143>

²² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/bogot%C3%A1-%E2%80%99social-control%E2%80%9D-mechanism-promotes-transparency-and-citizen-participation>

²³ <https://www.terrassa.cat/es/comissio-ciudadana-de-seguiment-i-impuls-de-la-carta-europea-de-salvaguarda-dels-drets-humans-a-la-ciutat-de-terrassa>

²⁴ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/madrid-launches-its-new-program-protection-human-rights-defenders>

²⁵ <http://ciutatsdretshumans.cat/es/>

²⁶ <http://www.martinennalsaward.org/>

²⁷ <https://www.sibiso.cdmx.gob.mx/accionesinstitucionales/desarmevoluntario>

Catalan cities such as *Sabadell*²⁸ or *Granollers*²⁹). Ultimately, other cities have taken **legal action or pursued strategic litigation** in human rights matters. *Terrassa*^{30 31} has sued banks holding vacant housing in a time of residential emergency; *Seine-Saint-Denis*³², has taken action to fight against energetic poverty; and *Barcelona*³³ has carried out strategic litigation in line with the Office for Non-Discrimination and Barcelona City of Rights programme priorities.

6. Many local governments have developed human rights action by addressing specific thematic issues on the basis of a rights-based approach. *Granollers*³⁴ (Spain) and *Grigny*^{35 36} (France) are strongly involved in international networking on the **right to peace** and promote initiatives at home on education for peace and conviviality in line with human rights agendas (see Granollers “Can Jonch” Centre³⁷ or Grigny’s public events on peace promotion³⁸). Many other local governments have also taken action in regards to **public space and the rights of persons with disabilities**: from *Lausanne* plan on accessibility³⁹ to *Middelburg* and *Veere* (Netherlands)⁴⁰ local implementation of the CRPD – Covenant on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – or *Budapest*⁴¹ Plan on accessible public space and transportation for people with disabilities. The global NGO *World Enabled*⁴² launched in 2018 the global campaign “Cities for All” gathering several cities such as *Berlin* or *New York* on the need to put the rights of persons with disabilities at the center of the agenda. Other cities, like *Ljubljana*⁴³, have devoted a specific focus on **elderly people** as a vulnerable group through its local plan “*Healthy Ageing A Challenge For The City Of Ljubljana*”, establishing an information point and various local social inclusion programmes.
7. **Migration** has also become a key human rights topic for local governments. In 2017, the Mechelen Conference “Cities and Migration” explored the links between local government and human rights agendas in regards to migration on the occasion of a special meeting (the report of which is fully accessible here⁴⁴). Initiatives on this topic range from local governments services of attention, welcome and advice for irregular migrant (as in the case of *Pichincha*⁴⁵, in Ecuador, or *Pikine*’s⁴⁶ Office of Rights, in Senegal) to local programmes on the right to work and capacity building for migrants and refugees (as the one implemented by Austria’s capital of *Vienna*⁴⁷). Other local governments have addressed this issue on the basis of migrants’ participation in public life, with relevant initiatives presented by *Taoyuan*⁴⁸, *Sao Paulo*⁴⁹ or *Grenoble*⁵⁰. Finally, these last years have also seen a rise in the number of cities which declare themselves as

²⁸ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-cities-and-territories-europe-what-realities-and-what-perspectives>

²⁹ https://seuelectronica.granollers.cat/gestor/RecursosWeb/DOCUMENTOS/1/1_2269_1.pdf

³⁰ https://cat.elpais.com/cat/2017/06/28/catalunya/1498671965_965292.html

³¹ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/community-practice-citiesforhousing-meets-madrid-define-joint-strategy>

³² <http://www.drihi.ile-de-france.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/precarite-energetique-et-sante-environnementale-a3944.html>

³³ http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/oficina-no-discriminacio/sites/default/files/Mesura%20Govern%20BCDrets%20GB_1.pdf

³⁴ <http://www.granollers.cat/taxonomy/term/4607>

³⁵ http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/171018_AFCDRP_activity170922.html

³⁶ http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/whatsnew/activity/170512_activity_Madrid_World_Forum.html

³⁷ <http://www.granollers.cat/adreces/socials/can-jonch-centre-cultura-pau>

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/villedegrigny91/posts/%EF%B8%8Fgrigny-ville-pour-la-paix-%EF%B8%8F-les-initiatives-se-poursuivent-%C3%A0-grigny-cette-semai/1730662300394535/>

³⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/sites/default/files/Minutes%20Geneva%20meeting%200409.pdf>

⁴⁰ http://sim.rebo.uu.nl/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Oomen_Rights-and-the-City.pdf

⁴¹ <https://welovebudapest.com/en/toplists/accessible-budapest-how-to-enjoy-the-city-with-limited-mobility/>

⁴² <http://worldenabled.org/cities-for-all/>

⁴³ <https://www.ljubljana.si/en/municipality/city-of-ljubljana-publications/?category=6>

⁴⁴ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/sites/default/files/Cities%20for%20Migration%20and%20Rights%20Minutes%20Mechelen%29.pdf>

⁴⁵ <https://www.pichincha.gob.ec/servicios/legal/item/12-atencion-acojida-y-asesoria-para-migrantes>

⁴⁶ http://femmesjuristes.org/?page_id=680

⁴⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/observatory/jugendcollege-training-and-education-young-migrants-vienna>

⁴⁸ https://oidp.net/distinction/en/record01_2018.php

⁴⁹ http://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/upload/direitos_humanos/MIGRANTES/PUBLICACOES/2_%20Espanol%20-%20Reglamento%20Interno%20de%20Consejo%20Municipal%20de%20migrantes.pdf

⁵⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/grenoble-fosters-participation-and-human-rights-all-its-inhabitants-through-notion>

“sanctuary” or “refugee” cities, like *Bristol*⁵¹, in the United Kingdom, *Valencia*,⁵² in Spain, *Naples*⁵³, in Italy, *Montreal*⁵⁴, in Canada, and *Atlanta*⁵⁵ and *Seattle*⁵⁶, in the United States.

8. The **right to housing** has also received a strong attention by many local governments in a time of global housing crisis and soaring financialization. In this regard, local governments have carried out social housing and urban renewal programmes (see *Plaine Commune*⁵⁷, in France, or *Montreal*⁵⁸, in Canada); promoted and supported community-led housing (as *Montevideo*⁵⁹ through the housing cooperatives movement); or devised specific plans for the most excluded (see the case of *Móstoles*⁶⁰ (Spain) and the Homeless Bill of Rights initiative across Europe⁶¹). After a worsening situation of the eviction crisis, many Spanish cities created specific offices aimed at mediating with banks or trying to put an end to evictions through different strategies: see the case of *Móstoles*⁶², *Terrassa*⁶³, *Barcelona*⁶⁴ or *Cadiz*⁶⁵.
9. In 2018, the **UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** led a follow-up process on the implementation of the **European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City**⁶⁶. The Committee received responses by 33 local authorities in 7 different European countries on their local human rights action (see the conclusions of this process in the Report of Barcelona’s Workshop of Local Governments for Human Rights (Annex 1)⁶⁷). Local government answers to the follow-up questionnaire mostly identified their human rights action with awareness-raising campaigns, fighting against discrimination, promoting the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and training local public workers.

II - Effective methods to foster cooperation between local government and stakeholders for the promotion and protection of human rights

10. The concepts of “human rights cities”, “human rights in the city”, “urban rights” or “right to the city” are all solidly rooted in the ideas of **participation and co-creation** of local human rights agendas, as shown by key international documents on the subject such as the *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City*⁶⁸ (2011) or the *European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City*⁶⁹. According to the *Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City*⁷⁰ (2014), a human rights city is both “an urban community that applies the human rights-based approach to urban governance” and “an open and participatory process where all actors are engaged in the decision-making and implementation process to improve quality of life in the urban

⁵¹ <https://bristol.cityofsanctuary.org/>

⁵² <http://lanostraciutatelteurefugi.com/>

⁵³ <http://www.dire.it/19-01-2018/166116-migranti-napoli-citta-rifugio-aperto-un-corridoio-umanitario-per-i-richiedenti-asilo/>

⁵⁴ http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=5977,142328176&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

⁵⁵ <https://www.theatlantavoice.com/articles/mayor-bottoms-announces-executive-action-stopping-city-of-atlanta-from-accepting-ice-detainees/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/qa-whats-it-mean-for-seattle-to-be-a-sanctuary-city-for-immigrants/>

⁵⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/plaine-commune-and-right-housing-guaranteeing-e2%80%9C-rooftop-everyone-e2%80%9D-working-class>

⁵⁸ <https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/mayor-unveils-housing-strategy>

⁵⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/city-montevideo-works-guarantee-right-housing-and-city-hand-hand-its-citizens>

⁶⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/m%C3%B3stoles-spain-leading-ambitious-strategy-right-housing-and-rights-homeless-people>

⁶¹ <https://www.feantsa.org/en/campaign/2017/11/21/homeless-bill-of-rights>

⁶² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/m%C3%B3stoles-spain-leading-ambitious-strategy-right-housing-and-rights-homeless-people>

⁶³ <https://www.terrassa.cat/es/fons-de-lloguer-social-d-emergencia>

⁶⁴ <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretsocials/es/noticia/nace-la-unidad-que-actuarza-preventivamente-contr-los-desahucios>

⁶⁵ <https://www.procasacadiz.es/omdevi.php>

⁶⁶ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/right-to-the-city/european-charter>

⁶⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Minutes%20BCN%20Workshop%20C4R.pdf>

⁶⁸ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/right-to-the-city/world-charter-agenda>

⁶⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/right-to-the-city/european-charter>

⁷⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Gwangju%20Guiding%20Principles%20for%20Human%20Rights%20City%20adopted%20on%2017%20May%202014.pdf>

context". The **World Charter for the Right to the City**⁷¹ (2005) makes reference to the right to participate. At a concrete level, relevant examples on the link between the human rights and participation at the local level can be found in **Gwangju's**⁷² implementation of comprehensive measures to advance the right of citizens to participate in public life; **Madrid's**⁷³ co-creation of its Strategic Plan for Human Rights⁷⁴ (2017) thanks to its local software on direct democracy "**Decide Madrid**⁷⁵"; or **Goicoechea's**⁷⁶ "**Mesas de Diálogo**" initiative that allows citizens to engage directly in social development projects through budget allocating and deliberative workshops.

11. Throughout the last 20 years, and after the initial momentum of the **People's Movement for Human Rights Education**⁷⁷, civil society and academia continued to play a key role in advancing human rights cities. Many examples can be found in Europe, such as **Graz**⁷⁸ (Austria), **York**⁷⁹ (United Kingdom) or **Lund**⁸⁰ (Sweden); but also the United States and its **National Human Rights Cities Alliance**⁸¹. In the Indonesian case⁸², various local governments and regencies – such as **Wonosobo**⁸³ – have rallied after a human rights-friendly movement promoted by local civil society and which has ultimately led to the celebration of an annual human rights cities festival with large participation of cities and social movements from across the country⁸⁴.
12. Several other examples of **direct cooperation between municipal authorities and local civil society** can also be found in regards to **direct human rights protection**. The Spanish city of **Móstoles**⁸⁵ relies for instance on local civil society to implement its local strategy to support to most vulnerable groups in regards to housing, carrying out coordinated actions through a local taskforce formed by municipal authorities and local organizations, and has collaborated with FEANTSA to adopt a local homeless bill of rights. **Barcelona**⁸⁶ has collaborated with local organizations and human rights defenders to implement a municipal strategy to fight against islamophobia. **Montevideo**⁸⁷ provides concrete mechanisms for local community groups to access adequate housing through a consolidated cooperative movement, in a similar vein that **Seoul's**⁸⁸ municipality projects on social economy and urban renewal. In Morocco, cities like **Tangiers**⁸⁹ or **Nador**⁹⁰ cooperate with local NGOs and community groups to support migrants.
13. Many examples of cooperation can also be found on the way local governments have advanced **human rights mainstreaming** in local administration or cooperate with other local stakeholders such as local police services, courts of justice, local ombudsperson or bar associations. **Vienna's**⁹¹ Human Rights Office can be considered a key example in this regard, as it is charged with the coordinating initiatives on human rights as a cross-cutting topic in all areas of Vienna's city

⁷¹ <http://hic-gs.org/document.php?pid=2422>

⁷² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/dr-voon-committee%E2%80%99s-co-chair-and-gwangju%E2%80%99s-mayor-takes-part-consultation-meeting>

⁷³ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/interview-miguel-arana-about-initiatives-carried-out-city-council-madrid>

⁷⁴ https://diario.madrid.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PlanDDHH_PDF.pdf

⁷⁵ <https://decide.madrid.es/>

⁷⁶ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/promoting-“human-development”-through-approach-based-participation-and-human-rights>

⁷⁷ <https://www.pdhre.org/>

⁷⁸ <http://www.etc-graz.at/typo3/index.php?id=958>

⁷⁹ <https://www.yorkhumanrights.org/>

⁸⁰ <https://rwi.lu.se/2018/09/lund-becomes-swedens-first-human-rights-city/>

⁸¹ <https://www.ushrnetwork.org/our-work/project/national-human-rights-cities-alliance>

⁸² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Minutes%20Geneva%20meeting%200409.pdf>

⁸³ <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/11/23/local-administrations-true-guardians-rights-activists.html>

⁸⁴ <https://www.infid.org/wonosobo-akan-memiliki-komisi-ham-pertama-di-indonesia/?lang=en>

⁸⁵ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/m%C3%B3stoles-spain-leading-ambitious-strategy-right-housing-and-rights-homeless-people>

⁸⁶ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/barcelona-promotes-plan-fight-against-islamophobia-local-level>

⁸⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/city-montevideo-works-guarantee-right-housing-and-city-hand-hand-its-citizens>

⁸⁸ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/grassroots-movements-seoul-are-getting-organized-turn-their-right-city-reality>

⁸⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/municipal-support-civil-society-social-inclusion-migrants-tangier>

⁹⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/guaranteeing-universal-rights-city-crossed-migratory-routes-nadors-local-action>

⁹¹ <https://www.wien.gv.at/english/social/integration/human-rights/office.html>

administration. South Korea's capital city of **Seoul**⁹² established in 2017 a local mechanism to protect residents against evictions-related violence in partnership with the local bar association. **Barcelona**⁹³ and **Madrid**⁹⁴ local human rights plans have on the other hand focused on mainstreaming by establishing inter-departmental taskforces and workshops engaging a broad set of stakeholders, from police services to local courts of justice.

14. In parallel to the multi-stakeholder approach, other municipal authorities have also established positive mechanisms of **multi-level cooperation** with other sub-national governments (provinces, regions...) or national governments. The case **Gipuzkoa's**⁹⁵ provincial council, in the Basque Country, presents a good example of how can provincial authorities support small municipalities local human rights action through training, workshops or financing; similarly to the case of **Plaine Commune**⁹⁶ (France) federation of local authorities' support to municipal initiatives on the right to housing. In **Senegal**⁹⁷, 75 local authorities adopted in 2017 a "Charter of Citizen Participation and the Right to the City" that counted with the support of various ministries, UN agencies and local NGOs and represented a strong commitment towards advancing the human rights and citizen participation agendas at the local level. The cases of the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities (**SALAR**) and the Dutch Association of Municipalities (**VNG**) were showcased during Barcelona's workshop of local governments for human rights⁹⁸ (December 2018) as concrete examples of national local government associations supporting local authorities' task regarding human rights action. The adoption of new national legislation has ultimately allowed **Indonesian** cities to adopt local human rights plans, as in the case of **Wonosobo**, which counts with sound human rights education programmes.
15. Finally, several initiatives developed in partnership with multilateral agencies should also be highlighted as concrete means of multi-stakeholder, local-global cooperation. Among relevant examples, the work done by local governments such as **Middelburg** in the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to produce a handbook⁹⁹ devised to help local governments engage in human rights action at their own city level; the organization of the **Vienna +25** Conference in partnership with the European Fundamental Rights Agency on 2018¹⁰⁰; or UNESCO's cooperation with hundreds of local governments committed to fight against racism in the framework of ICCAR (**International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities**¹⁰¹) and its regional coalitions (ECCAR, Coalición LAC...)

III - Ways in which local governments raise awareness about and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, including by ensuring participation by local stakeholders

⁹² <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/seoul%E2%80%99s-quest-bring-human-rights-all-parts-citizens-lives-interview-seouls-human>

⁹³ <http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/dretdiversitat/en/barcelona-city-rights>

⁹⁴ https://diario.madrid.es/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PlanDDHH_PDF.pdf

⁹⁵ <https://www.gipuzkoa.eus/es/web/bizikidetzta/convivencia-en-la-diversidad>

⁹⁶ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/plaine-commune-and-right-housing-guaranteeing-%E2%80%9C-rooftop-everyone%E2%80%9D-working-class>

⁹⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/senegalese-local-governments-adopt-charter-citizen-participation-and-right-city>

⁹⁸ <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-cities-and-territories-europe-what-realities-and-what-perspectives>

⁹⁹ <https://rm.coe.int/human-rights-at-local-and-regional-levels-vol-1/16808e9214>

¹⁰⁰ <https://fundamentalrightsforum.eu/en/frf/blog/local-needs-local-solutions-tale-human-rights-cities>

¹⁰¹ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/fight-against-discrimination/coalition-of-cities/>

16. The **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) of UCLG**¹⁰² has published annual reports in regards to the way local and regional governments from across the world have actively contributed to the localization of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. The 2017¹⁰³ and 2018¹⁰⁴ reports can be found online and focused on SDGs reviewed on the occasion of each year's High-Level Political Forum SDGs focus. GOLD is set to publish an overarching, comprehensive report on the subject compressing all SDGs by fall 2019. In short, these reports have shown how much local governments have taken ownership and actively contributed to the realization of Goal 11 ("inclusive and sustainable cities"), but also of the full 2030 agenda.
17. Closely interrelated to the SDGs agenda, the **New Urban Agenda** also raised much attention by the global municipal movement. Active member-local governments¹⁰⁵ of the UCLG CSIPDHR Committee contributed to the Habitat III process through an advocacy campaign for the right to the city and human rights to be recognized and included as guiding principles of the New Urban Agenda. This advocacy strategy was unfolded in partnership with global civil society organized under the umbrella of the **Global Platform for the Right to the City**¹⁰⁶. In 2018, the **World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju** explored the links between the human rights cities and Sustainable Development Goals agendas, vowing to adopt a 2030 Gwangju Agenda by 2020¹⁰⁷.
18. So far, **Utrecht**¹⁰⁸, **Quito**¹⁰⁹, **San Antonio de Areco**¹¹⁰, **Catalonia**¹¹¹ and **Montevideo**¹¹² have pioneered the implementation of local and regional agendas on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals after a human rights-based approach.

IV - Ways in which local governments are connected with the United Nations human rights system

19. Local governments in the framework of the **UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** have taken an active role in the process opened by the Human Rights Council Report A/HRC/30/49 (2015) and Resolution A/HRC/RES/33/8 (2016), on the recognition of local governments' role in the promotion and the protection of human rights. Local authorities from **Barcelona, Plaine Commune, Lausanne or Madrid** have taken part in UCLG delegations to the council in 2015¹¹³, 2016 and 2017¹¹⁴, and presented two statements to the council on behalf of UCLG constituency (see 2015¹¹⁵ and 2017¹¹⁶ resolutions). This work has been connected with the annual organization of the **World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju**¹¹⁷; a paramount meeting point for the global human rights cities movement that has been promoting debate an action on the subject for almost a decade. This process has been facilitated in

¹⁰² <https://www.gold.uclg.org/reports/other/local-governments-and-localization-sdgs>

¹⁰³ https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/UCLG_GTF_LocalizationSDG.pdf

¹⁰⁴ https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Towards_the_Localization_of_the_SDGs.pdf

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/activities/right-to-the-city/international-seminars/2>

¹⁰⁶ <http://www.righttothecityplatform.org.br/es/>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/new-alliances-aimed-putting-human-rights-heart-2030-agendas-gwangju-hosts>

¹⁰⁸ <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/447/Localising-the-SDGs-in-Utrecht-.pdf>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.uclg.org/en/media/events/encuentro-internacional-quito-laboratorio-de-ciudades-de-la-nueva-agenda-urbana>

¹¹⁰ https://www.agencianova.com/nota.asp?n=2018_6_5&id=63126&id_tiponota=10

¹¹¹ http://territori.gencat.cat/es/details/Article/agenda_urbana

¹¹² <http://www.montevideo.gub.uy/institucional/noticias/montevideo-construye-su-agenda-urbana>

¹¹³ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/cisdpdr-30th-session-united-nations-human-rights-council>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/un-human-rights-council-examines-local-governments%E2%80%9999-role-promotion-and-protection>

¹¹⁵ https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/EN_Statement%20CGLU%20rapport%20UNHRCSept2015_1_0.pdf

¹¹⁶ https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/STATEMENT_6_EN_0_0.pdf

¹¹⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/activities/human-rights-cities/international-meetings/World-Human-Rights-Cities-Forum-of-Gwangju>

partnership with other relevant organizations on the subject, such as the Gwangju International Centre, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, INIFID NGO or Asia Democracy Network (ADN21).

20. On the occasion of 2018 World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju, local governments of the Committee – such as Seoul, Gwangju, Barcelona or Sao Paulo – advanced dialogue¹¹⁸ with **OHCHR's Deputy High Commissioner** Gilmore (who was invited to Gwangju's WHRCF Forum as keynote speaker), in connection with the UN human rights agenda on "local government and human rights" and the future of the human rights cities agenda (2030 agenda, 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, etc).
21. In 2016, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights and its member city of Barcelona, also organized, in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, **a thematic meeting** on the role of human rights in New Urban Agenda, specifically assessing homeless' rights in the New Urban Agenda¹¹⁹. In 2018, the UCLG CSIPDHR Committee organized, in partnership with the OHCHR and the city of Barcelona, a **training event** for local civil society on UN mechanisms for human rights protection¹²⁰. In the last years, member-local governments of the Committee have also taken part in **other UN Human Rights-related processes** such as the process of definition of Guiding Principles on "The Right to Participate in Public Life"¹²¹ or "Human rights impact assessments of economic reforms"¹²².
22. Member-local governments of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights have taken a leading role in the OHCHR's and Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Leilani Farha campaign "**The Shift**"¹²³, in defense of the right to housing and against housing financialization. Member-local governments were present at the official launch of The Shift Campaign in Quito¹²⁴ (October 2016), organized in partnership with Rapporteur Farha and the OHCHR a meeting of Cities and Regions for the Right to Housing¹²⁵ (November 2017); a side event during Kuala Lumpur's World Urban Forum (February 2018) and Geneva's Human Rights Council of March¹²⁶ 2018; and ultimately launched¹²⁷ a global Declaration for the Right to Housing ("Cities for Adequate Housing"¹²⁸) on the occasion of New York's 2018 High-Level Political Forum.

V – On the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

23. The **UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** brings together local governments from across the world committed to the advance of human rights and the right to the city in worldwide cities and territories. In the framework of **UCLG**, it aspires to articulate a common voice for the world organization of local and regional governments in terms of social inclusion, participatory democracy, human rights and the right to the city. To do so, it actively participates in the organization's policy and advocacy mechanisms (waves of action, policy councils,

¹¹⁸ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/members-committee-advance-dialogue-local-governments-role-promoting-and-protecting>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/activities/right-to-housing/homeless-people-human-rights>

¹²⁰ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/training-local-civil-society-organizations-international-mechanisms-human-rights>

¹²¹ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/dr-yoon-committee%E2%80%99s-co-chair-and-gwangju%E2%80%99s-mayor-takes-part-consultation-meeting>

¹²² <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-impact-assessment-economic-reform-policies-un-human-rights-council>

¹²³ <http://www.unhousingrapp.org/>

¹²⁴ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/uclg-congress-and-habitat-iii-local-governments-and-civil-society-enhance-global>

¹²⁵ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/cities-and-regions-right-housing>

¹²⁶ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/uclg-brings-voice-local-and-regional-governments-calling-rights-based-housing>

¹²⁷ <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/right-housing-and-right-city-cities-across-world-come-together-launch-common>

¹²⁸ <https://citiesforhousing.org/>

world council...) and coordinates its action with the World Secretariat of UCLG (based in Barcelona). Since its inception in 2005, the Committee has therefore been focused on proposing and facilitating spaces of debate and exchange to its members in order to share their local experiences and articulate common points of view, agenda and advocacy initiatives.

24. Alongside the defense of the right to the city and local democracy, **human rights have played a key role** for the political agenda defended by members of the Committee throughout all its history. The Committee is therefore charged with the promotion of political documents such as the **European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City, the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City or the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City**. It has therefore organized international conferences and workshops which have advanced local governments' human rights global and local agendas (the last one being the Barcelona Workshop of European Local Governments for Human Rights – December 2018). The Committee is also charged with the organization of the **World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju**, South Korea (a co-president city of the Committee alongside Mexico City, Plaine Commune and Seine-Saint-Denis) and provides online and communications channels where members can share their practices and learn from others.
25. On the basis of these meetings and knowledge exchange, the Committee has also focused on providing spaces for member-local governments to take part in **advocacy campaigns for human rights and the right to the city** towards international processes. Among the most relevant advocacy campaigns and frameworks for the Committee in the last years: The Habitat III process; "The Shift" movement; the Global Compact for Migration; the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and the follow-up to the A/HRC/30/49 report and the recognition of local governments role in the promotion and protection of human rights.