

To the Gypsy and Traveller community of Dale Farm Essex, United Kingdom

We, the participants of the International Expert Group Meeting on Forced Evictions, coming from different countries and organizations around the world, currently joined together at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat) headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, express our solidarity with the Dale Farm community in its struggle against the imminent forced eviction planned by Basildon Borough Council.

We express our deep regret at the insistence of the local authority to carry out this eviction, without the provision of alternative adequate resettlement, which will affect the largest Irish Traveler site in the United Kingdom, home for ten years to a vulnerable and historically excluded ethnic minority. Their settlement stands on land which they own, but they have not received permissions from the planning authorities to reside there.

Repressive policies targeting Gypsies and Travelers disguised as planning regulations are discriminatory, while inclusive national strategies that are in line with human rights standards generate real progress in addressing issues of exclusion and marginalisation.

We endorse the calls made by the UN Regional Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Europe, the Special Rapporteur on Right to Housing, Raquel Rolnik, the Independent Expert on Minorities, Rita Izsak, and the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on the UK Government to find a peaceful and appropriate solution and culturally adequate alternative housing for the families.

Nairobi, 22 September 2011.

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Leticia Osorio	ESSEX HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC	BRAZIL
LEILANI FARHA	CENTRE FOR EQUALITY RIGHTS IN ACCOMMODATION	CANADA
Pamela Agum	EACOR	Kenya
Maria Tereza F. Borges	HUMAN COMMISSION	PHILIPPINES
Cihan Ozgençerli Dağcı	Devletler Platformu	TURKEY

