

FORUM: United Nations World Tourism Organisation

QUESTION OF: Examining the negative impacts of gentrification on local communities

SUBMITTED BY: The Republic of Malta

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Australia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland

THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION,

Acknowledging the adverse effects of gentrification on the mental health of vulnerable populations, low-income residents, and marginalized communities

Recognizing that gentrification contributes to the erosion of local culture including local traditions and cultural characteristics

Noting that Local small businesses tend to shut down due to gentrification seeing as bigger businesses overtake them in the market

Further noting Low-income residents get get dislocated from their, not by choice but obligations due to the prices rising

1. Urges governments to implement regulatory measures that limit the number of short-term rentals allowed in areas affected by gentrification by implementing short-term rental density limits, additional taxation for hosts and for visitors, and exclusion from tourism promotion in order to:
 - a) safeguard residential housing availability for locals,
 - b) mitigate rising property values and rental costs,
 - c) prevent the worsening of socio-economic inequalities;

2. . Encourages Member States to adopt or enhance the implementation of tourist taxes, after a specific amount of days spent in the area, as a means to fund the preservation of historic areas and support citizen welfare through:
 - a. the strengthening of enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with tourist tax regulations by:
 - i. implementing a digital tracking system to monitor and collect tourist taxes,
 - ii.collaborating with hotels,
 - iii.short-term rental platforms,
 - iv. .and other accommodation providers and remitting tourist taxes on behalf of their guests, promoting international collaboration to establish a shared commitment to addressing the challenges of mass tourism and its correlation with gentrification;

3. Further urges all Member States to create an international framework that protects low-income residents from being displaced due to gentrification by:
 - a) helping develop policies that provide affordable housing,
 - b) strengthening legal protections for tenants worldwide,
 - c) having loans granted with low interest rates if residents are responsible in the face of the law which will be done by creating a digital platform where people will sign in to ask for a loan and will be granted if they fit the criteria written above;

4. Proposes the establishment of an advisory group, run by the UNWTO, to study and mitigate the cultural impacts of gentrification while collaborating with the governments of Member States through imposing fines on companies that contribute to the erosion of local culture in order to:
 - a) preserve local traditions,
 - b) support small businesses, and ensure that tourism respects and enhances the unique character of neighborhoods;

5. Further proposes limiting short-term rentals in high tourist areas to mitigate the effects of gentrification on vulnerable populations, through measures such as but not limited to:
 - a) establishing a licensing limit, to limit the amount of short-term rentals in order to ensure sufficient housing for local populations,

6. Calls for the establishment of a body that will operate under the United Nations and will effectively raise awareness on the effects of gentrification on affected populations through:
 - a) raising awareness on the erosion of culture, through means such as:
 - i. campaigns,
 - ii. seminars,
 - b) establishing advocacy opportunities for the effects gentrification can have on the mental health of affected populations, while also funding professional psychiatric treatment to those who are in need of it.