

ROUTLEDGE FOCUS

# URBAN SOCIAL HOUSING

Global Health and Climate Change  
Mitigation and Redress

Patrick Wakely

ROUTLEDGE  
  
Focus

URBAN SOCIAL HOUSING  
Global Health and Climate Change Mitigation and Redress

*'Urban Social Housing'* proposes operational approaches to public sector support to community-led development of urban low-income group social housing in the prevailing and medium-term. Within the context of mitigating and redressing the existential threats of climate change and global pathogenic transmission, building on current concerns of global heating and the lessons learnt from the 2020-22 COVID-19 pandemic, the book closely examines recent examples from a wide international range of countries and cities with in-depth case studies drawn from Northern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America. Topics include maintenance and management of public sector housing, poverty alleviation objectives, climate change mitigation, housing density, local land management and planning, land rights, affordable housing markets, and international governance and administration, ultimately pointing to the universal need for institutional, organisational and human skills development and the compilation and dissemination of operationally successful examples of participatory partnerships for affordable social and public housing. The book will be of interest to researchers, instructors, practitioners, and students of urban development, housing, environmental design, land-use planning, public administration and environmental health engineering.

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**Patrick Wakely** is an independent policy adviser and Professor Emeritus of Urban Development in the University of London and former Director of the Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL). An architect (AA Dipl, London), he has 40 years of experience of research, consultancy and teaching in housing, planning and urban development, on which he has worked in more than 20 countries.

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**First published (hardcover),** February 2024: UK£48.99  
**Paperback,** 2025: £18.99; US\$24.95  
**eBook:** £18.99; US\$24.95

<https://www.routledge.com/Urban-Social-Housing-Global-Health-and-Climate-Change-Mitigation-and-Redress/Wakely/p/book/9781032737065>

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**Foreword** by Robert Biel

### **Preface & Introduction**

Urban social housing vs public housing

### **1. Prevailing and emerging policy approaches**

State intervention in low-income group housing; ‘Conventional’ public works tradition; ‘Non-conventional’ controlled participation.

### **2. Implementation strategies**

Local government-community-NGO Partnerships; Components of authority; Subsidiarity.

### **3. Land and location**

Location; Geophysical determinants; Peri-urban development; Coastal locations

### **4. Land use and landscape planning & management**

Local land management and planning; Participation and partnerships in land use planning and maintenance

### **5. Legislation, norms and standards**

Land rights, title and tenure; Urban land and housing markets.

### **6. Financial support and the way ahead**

Financing urban housing adaptation; Local management and technical supports.

### **Postscript**

‘New Normal’ urban social housing policies and implementation strategies; Preparedness and data management.

### **Bibliography**

## ENDORSEMENTS

Responses to the need for low-income urban housing have evolved over the past 80 years. It is still evolving, influenced even more so now by the climate crisis and the need to consider public health. In this book, Professor Wakely captures the essence of these and other key determinants in influencing that evolution, including land tenure, land use management, financing, and the need for ongoing partnership and collaboration. This book is a valuable resource for those engaged in low-income urban housing and must contribute to shaping future strategies and responses for all role players in this field

**Greg Munro**, *Director, Cities Alliance, Brussels, Belgium.*

In this book Patrick Wakely offers a historical account of the evolution of housing policies from the mid-Twentieth century, making the critical distinction between ‘public’ and ‘social’ housing. He examines the travelling of policy and legal framing across the so-called Global North and South and the emergence and recognition of collective processes of the social production of habitat, while arguing that the right to adequate housing cannot be advanced in dissociation from other contemporary crises, notably the climate emergency and the global health crisis, manifested through the COVID-19 pandemic, 2021-23.

**Adriana Allen**, *Professor, University College London (UCL), UK and formerly President of Habitat International Coalition (HIC).*

The recent COVID-19 pandemic and the fast-growing global heating process have both highlighted the centrality of housing and health conditions in urban areas. It is urgently necessary to understand the limits and possibilities of policies and strategies that aim to provide access to housing, especially for the more vulnerable groups.

Lessons already exist, such as those so well organised by Professor Wakely in this important and timely book, written with precision as a result of decades of reflection, research, teaching and action in many countries. It articulates information, analysis, and original proposals for the formulation of answers to the global urban housing crisis.

**Edesio Fernandes**, *urban and environmental researcher, teacher and advisor to the United Nations, World Bank and other international agencies, formerly Director of Land Affairs at the Ministry of Cities, Federal Government of Brazil.*

In this concise work, Patrick Wakely draws on his extensive academic and professional experience to capture the essential characteristics of the post war urban social housing policy development until recent times. Focusing primarily on the global South and drawing on some of the key examples from the global North he identifies important lessons for policy makers including key reflections for addressing the new challenges posed by global heating and potential future pandemics. In particular he highlights the critical role of subsidiarity and participatory partnerships between key public and community actors to enable effective policy interventions for social housing delivery.

**Ramin Keivani**, *Professor of International Land Policy and Urban Development, Oxford Brookes University.*