



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Gere Foundation and HOGAR Sí partner with UN-Habitat to address homelessness

Nairobi, 5 May 2026 –The Gere Foundation Chair, Richard Gere, jointly with the Spanish non-profit organization, HOGAR SÍ, is partnering with UN-Habitat to place homelessness at the forefront of global housing discussions at the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF13), taking place from 17 to 22 May in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The partnership underscores a shared commitment to addressing homelessness – the most severe form of housing exclusion – and advancing solutions that ensure dignity, inclusion, and access to housing for all.

Globally, nearly 3 billion people lack access to adequate housing, more than 1 billion live in informal settlements, and over 300 million people experience homelessness. The crisis affects both the Global South and North, with far-reaching social, economic, and human consequences. Homelessness not only represents the absence of a home but also results in the systematic denial of other fundamental rights, including personal security, health, privacy, and human dignity. WUF13, under the theme “Housing the world: Safe and resilient cities and communities,” provides a platform for governments, institutions, civil society, and global leaders to engage in solutions that respond to this urgent challenge.

In a video message supporting WUF13, Richard Gere emphasized the urgency of action: “Housing is the gateway to all other rights. Without a safe home, there is no health, no education, no stable employment.”

As part of the WUF13 programme, HOGAR SÍ will host an Urban Cinema session on 21 May (14:15–15:00), featuring the documentary “What Nobody Wants to See”. In the film, Richard and Alejandra Gere hold intimate conversations with each of Mamen, Latyr, Javi and Antonio, who have experienced homelessness and recovered their lives through housing.

Homelessness is a structural phenomenon rooted in the failure to guarantee the right to housing, reflecting systemic gaps in public policies and social protection systems. Addressing it therefore requires political commitment, rights-based approaches, and long-term housing solutions.

“Homelessness is not inevitable. It is a profound injustice – one we can solve when we choose dignity, housing, and human connection,” Mr. Gere said.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach highlighted the importance of this collaboration: “We invite the global community to bring their experience, decision-making power and commitment to creating a better urban future. Together, we can build safe, resilient cities and communities with a home for all.”

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This initiative forms part of UN-Habitat's broader efforts at WUF13 to convene global leaders and urban actors to advance practical solutions to urban challenges.

About the World Urban Forum

Established in 2001 by the United Nations, the World Urban Forum is the premier global conference on sustainable urbanization, designed to examine the impacts of rapid urbanization on cities, communities, economies, and climate change. Since its inception, WUF has been hosted in cities across the world, with the first session held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2002.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries supporting policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

About The Gere Foundation

The Gere Foundation's mission is to amplify the voices and efforts of NGOs, institutions and brave individuals that share our core values. We believe in listening, deciding together and working hand by hand with those who are active on the ground and develop innovative solutions for complex challenges that seem unsolvable.

About HOGAR Sí

HOGAR Sí is a social, non-profit, independent, plural and statewide entity, created in 1998. We are convinced that it is possible to end homelessness through housing solutions, and we believe in the responsibility of facing the problem from society, focusing on the problem and not on the person who suffers from it.

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