

September 29th & 30th

# Leadership Conference

2023

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**UNLOCKING THE  
POTENTIAL OF  
LEADERS WHO HAVE  
EXPERIENCED  
HOMELESSNESS**

**Capital Hill Hilton  
525 New Jersey Avenue NW  
Washington, DC, 20001**



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# Welcome!

I want to thank you for your attendance at the 2023 National Coalition for the Homeless Leadership Conference. Our work to end homelessness has never been more critical and necessary, our brothers and sisters across this country face numerous challenges, from skyrocketing housing costs to underemployment and unemployment to a well-funded misinformation campaign and growing criminalization. With all these challenges increasing daily, we cannot afford to wait.

You are here to work with activists, local leaders, and those with recent homeless experience to strategize about an end to homelessness with national policy leaders. The panelists we have invited to share come to us from other national housing and homeless groups as well as leaders in Congress and administration officials

- **but this is not business as usual.**

We believe that the leadership of those who have experienced homelessness will help us to truly Bring America Home. This type of gathering bringing those with recent homeless experience together with law makers and federal agencies has not been staged in our nation's capital since 2002. Please listen, take note, but above all, **make your voice heard**

- sharing your experience as a way to build advocacy to ensure all of our neighbors have safe, accessible and affordable homes.

**Together, we will Bring America Home!**



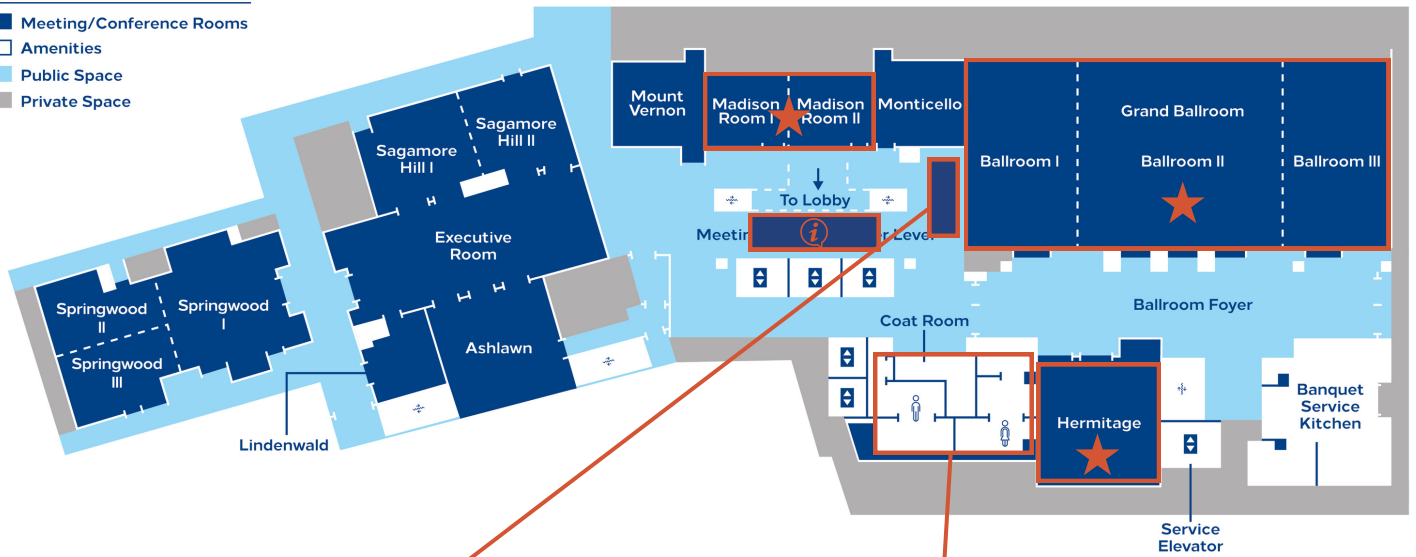
**Donald Whitehead**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donald Whitehead".

**Lower Lobby Level**

**FLOOR MAP KEY**

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
- Amenities
- Public Space
- Private Space



**Registration**

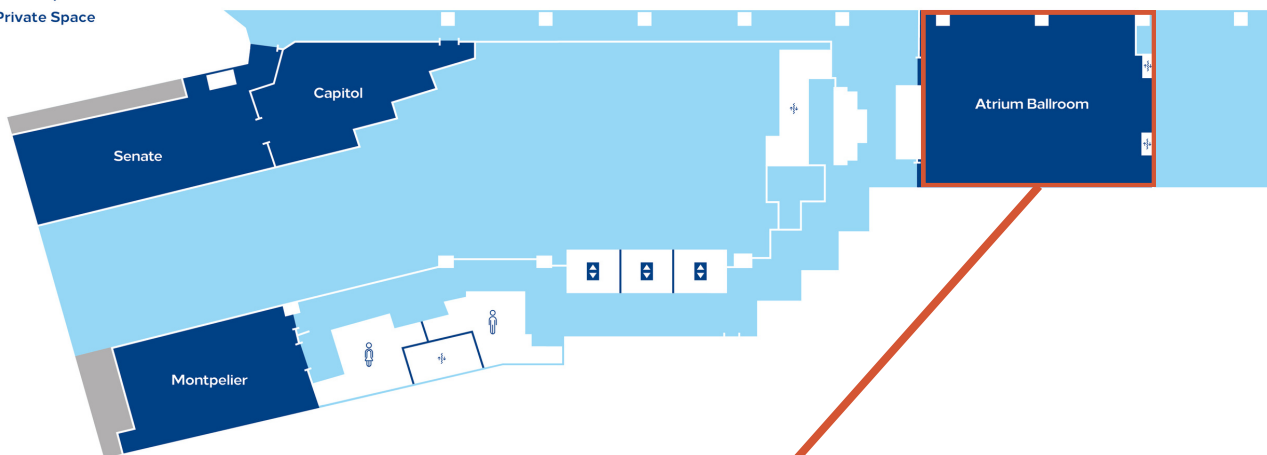
**Restrooms**

**i Information Tables   ★ Workshop Rooms**

**Mezzanine Level**

**FLOOR MAP KEY**

- Meeting/Conference Rooms
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- Private Space



**Networking and Social Hour  
Friday, Sept. 29, 6-7pm**



September 29th & 30th

Capital Hill Hilton, 525 New Jersey Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20002

### Thursday, September 28, 2023

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. | Welcome Reception for Scholarship Recipients | Room: Ballroom Foyer & Hermitage

### Friday, September 29, 2023

7:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. | Registration (Available All Day) | Room: Grand Ballroom

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. | Breakfast | Room: Grand Ballroom

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. | **Opening Plenary: News from the Federal Government** | Room: Grand Ballroom

10:05 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

**How Do We Beat Cicero?** | Presenters: Eric Tars, Matt Mollica | Room: Hermitage

**What's in the Research: Recent Reports and Releases** | Claudine Sipilli, Samatha Batko | Room: Madison

**Changing the Narrative** | Marisol Bello, Lynn Lewis | Room: Grand Ballroom

11:05 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**How A Bill Becomes Law** | NCH Policy Team | Room: Hermitage

**Data and Change Work** | Bree Taylor, Shenandoah Gale | Room: Madison

**Leading with LETA** | Roderick Woodruff, Rajni Shankar-Brown, Donald Whitehead | Room: Grand Ballroom

12:05 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. | **Lunch Plenary: Representative Cori Bush** | Room: Grand Ballroom

1:00 P.M. - 1:10 P.M. | Break | Grand Ballroom Foyer

1:10 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | **National Advocacy Executive Directors Roundtable Discussion** | Ann Oliva, Kathryn Monet, Bobby Watts, Diane Yentel, Donald Whitehead | Room: Grand Ballroom

2:05 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

TBA | Room: Hermitage

**How To Write A Policy Brief** | NCH Policy Team | Room: Madison

**Grassroots Organizing 101** | Ramina Davidson, Paul Boden | Room: Grand Ballroom

2:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. | Break | Room: Grand Ballroom Foyer

3:05 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. |

**Building Youth Power** | Marcella Middleton, Alexander Perez | Room: Hermitage

**The Homeless WANDERland: Your Game, Your Show** | 小陸 Loh | Room: Madison

**More Than Storytellers: Utilizing Live Experience for Advocacy and Social Change** | Rachelle Ellison, Michelle Miller, Jeffrey Bingham | Room: Grand Ballroom

4:05 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. |

**From Lived Experience to Leadership** | Kansas City COC Leaders, Erika Wright | Room: Hermitage

**What is Housing Justice?** | Sarah Hunter, Amanda Andere | Room: Madison

**Using Film & Media for Advocacy** | Mark Horvath, Caletta Harris | Room: Grand Ballroom

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. | **Social Hour, Networking & Karaoke** | Room: Grand Ballroom Foyer

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### Saturday, September 30, 2023

8:00 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. | Breakfast | Room: Grand Ballroom Foyer

9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. | **Opening Plenary: Bring America Home NOW!** Donald Whitehead, Rajni Shankar-Brown, Francis Kalombo Ngoy, Sue Watlov Phillips | Room: Grand Ballroom

10:05 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. |

**Exploring Racial Equity and Homelessness** | Regina Cannon, LaMont Green, Lori Pampillo-Harris, David Peery | Room: Hermitage

**Tenant Organizing** | Susie Shannon, Rod Wilson, Michael Kane | Room: Madison

**Breaking Down Silos and Building Capacity for Legislative Change: One State's Model** | Delaware HOMES Campaign, Delaware ACLU, Delaware Community Legal Aid Society | Room: Grand Ballroom

11:05 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**NCH Membership: How to be an Ambassador of NCH in Your Community** | Room: Hermitage

**How Data Is Used In Advocacy: Acronym Soup** | Room: Madison

**Climate Change & Environmental Impact on Homelessness** | Room: Grand Ballroom

12:05 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. | **Lunch Plenary: Ruth Jones Nichols** | Room: Grand Ballroom

1:00 P.M. - 1:15 P.M. | Break

1:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. | **New Faces of Homelessness** | Christina Garcia, Iffat Walker, Marcella Middleton, Albert Townsend, Rashema Melson | Room: Grand Ballroom

2:05 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. |

**Breaking the Prison to Homelessness Pipeline** | Don Gardner, Christina Garcia, Ramina Davidson | Room: Hermitage

**Fostering Care: Youth Access to Housing Supports** | Ruth White, Adaora Anoura | Room: Madison

**Incorporating People With Lived Experience into Your Work** | Matthew Mollica, Robert Warren | Room: Grand Ballroom

2:45 P.M. - 3:15 P.M. | Break | Room: Grand ballroom Foyer

3:05 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

**Looking at Arts as Advocacy** | Tammy DeGruchy Grubbs, Street Sense Media | Room: Hermitage

**Advocacy in Small-Town America and Outside the Mainland** | Barbara Anderson, Iffat Walker | Room: Madison

**Using Your Voice for Technical Assistance** | Abt Associates | Room: Grand Ballroom

4:05 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

**Innovate Housing Options** | Finny Mathew, Terrick Moyer | Room: Hermitage

**Lived Experience Leadership Development** | Path Academy, Amanda Richer, Lamont Green, William Higgins | Room: Madison

**Funding Non-Profit Startup Facilitated** | Brian Davis, George Levanthall, Jessica Venegas | Room: Grand Ballroom

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. | **NCH Awards** | Room: Grand Ballroom

6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. | Dinner | Room: Grand Ballroom Foyer



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# Presenters



## **Amanda Misiko Andere - Chief Executive Officer Funders Together to End Homelessness**

Amanda Misiko Andere, a dedicated leader for over 15 years, advocates for racial and housing justice in the nonprofit and public sectors. She's the CEO of Funders Together to End Homelessness and formerly led Wider Opportunities for Women. She serves on boards for the United Philanthropy Forum and Equity in the Center, while also playing a pivotal role in the National Racial Equity Working Group on Homelessness and Housing and the Leadership Council for the DC Partnership to End Homelessness. Amanda's work with A Way Home America focuses on ending youth homelessness with a racial equity perspective.



## **Ana Oliva - CEO National Alliance to End Homelessness**

Ana Oliva is a renowned expert in homelessness and housing policy, collaborating with Congress, the Administration, and state and local officials to promote effective solutions and best practices in the homeless services sector. Her extensive career includes roles as Vice President for Housing Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Senior Policy Advisor at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and a decade of federal service at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).



## **Bobby Watts - E.D. National Healthcare for the Homeless Council**

Bobby Watts is the CEO of the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, which supports the 300 federally-funded Health Care for the Homeless programs and 150 Medical Respite programs with training, technical assistance, sharing of best practices, research, publications, and an active policy and advocacy program working to eliminate homelessness. Bobby has 30 years of experience in administration, direct service, and implementation of homeless health services.



## **Branden Fletcher - Community Organizer Community Legal Aid Society**

Branden Fletcher, a Gen-Z activist originally from Brooklyn and a Delaware resident for over a decade, co-founded the Courtroom Navigator program during his first term in Americorps in 2020. This initiative led to the Delaware Supreme Court allowing Qualified Tenant Advocates to represent tenants facing eviction, improving tenant legal support. He now coordinates the HOMES Campaign, advocating for housing justice in Delaware, and is a State Representative candidate in Wilmington's 3rd District.



## **Bree Taylor - Founder and CEO ATRICA**

Bree Taylor is the founder and CEO of ATRICA, an organization that combines Activism and Technology to Report on Inequities in Communities and take Action. ATRICA provides end-to-end data services to empower individuals and organizations. Bree has over a decade of experience in data analysis, with a focus on life sciences, pharmaceuticals, and chemistry. She excels in client engagement, project management, and cross-functional collaboration, with skills in data analysis, quality assurance, workflow optimization, and requirements definition.



## **Cori Bush - US Representative, Missouri's 1st Congressional District's United States Congress**

Congresswoman Cori Bush is a registered nurse, community activist, organizer, single mother, and ordained pastor representing the people of Missouri's First Congressional District. Congresswoman Cori is in her second term in the United States House of Representatives, serving on the House Oversight Committee—including as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs—and the House Judiciary Committee.



## **Caletta Harris - Director No Address Documentary, Reel2Real Productions**

Caletta Harris is the founder of Reel2Real Productions, a full-service video production company located in Columbia, SC, and Atlanta, GA. She directed her first documentary series, "No Address," highlighting the criminalization of homelessness and practical solutions to combat it. The series garnered recognition, with "No Address: Columbia, SC" winning "Best Documentary" at the AfroSouth Film Festival and part two, "No Address: Atlanta, GA," selected as a quarter-finalist at the Pembroke Taparelli Arts and Film Festival.



## **Diane Yentel - President National Low Income Housing Coalition**

Diane Yentel, as President and CEO of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, is a prominent advocate for equitable housing policies, leveraging over 25 years of experience in affordable housing. She has led impactful campaigns for housing justice, collaborating with Congress, the White House, federal agencies, and partners nationwide, often testifying before Congress and offering expert commentary to major media outlets.



# Presenters



**Eric Tars - Senior Policy Dir.**  
**National Homelessness Law Center**

Eric Tars, Senior Policy Director at the National Homelessness Law Center, leads the organization's advocacy for housing as a human right and against the criminalization of homelessness. He's been involved in significant cases, including *Martin v. Boise*, and is a frequent media commentator. Prior to his current role, Eric was a Fellow with Global Rights' U.S. Racial Discrimination Program and holds a J.D. magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. magna cum laude in political science from Haverford College.



**Iffat M. Walker - Founder and Executive Director**  
**Community Action NOW!**

Iffat M. Walker is the dedicated Founder and Executive Director of Community Action NOW! (CAN), a remarkable nonprofit organization providing essential services across multiple regions, including the U.S. Virgin Islands, East Metro Atlanta, GA, and Ntonso, Ghana. With a passion for impacting positive change, Iffat has developed a diverse array of programs that focus on critical areas such as Disaster Management, Solar Affordability, Housing Assistance, Youth Diversion Services, Workforce Development and Financial Literacy, among others. Iffat's unwavering advocacy for the people she serves shines through her tireless efforts, consistently striving to improve the lives and well-being of individuals and communities in need.



**Ishaan Akula - Advocate**  
**National Coalition for the Homeless**

Ishaan Akula is a passionate advocate for sustainable social change through policy and entrepreneurship, striving to create a more equitable world by improving education and affordable housing access. He founded the Online Monmouth Math Competition (OMMC) during his freshman year, uniting students across the nation in collaborative math competitions. OMMC now engages over 3.8k students annually. Ishaan also co-developed Resilient, a platform aiding housing insecure and homeless individuals. He has partnered with the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) to mobilize youth for housing policy change, collaborating with campaign director Francis Kalombo Ngoy.



**Jeffrey D. Bingham - Chairman**  
**Prince George's County Lived Experience Committee**

Jeffrey Bingham, a nine-year advocate for the homeless, has held crucial roles in effecting change. He served as a housing specialist and director at Prince George's House Men Shelter, fostering relationships with landlords and organizations to aid homeless men. Now a permanent supportive housing case manager at Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS), he helps clients secure housing and resources, while also collaborating with the community.



**LaToria Whitehead, Ph.D. MPH - Senior Advisor**  
**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

As Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Health Equity at HHS, I leverage 18 years of CDC leadership to promote health equity and environmental justice, with a focus on underserved communities. My expertise includes managing large-scale projects, contributing to the establishment of the HHS Office of Environmental Justice, and utilizing innovative approaches to address humanitarian issues. My strengths lie in data evaluation and stakeholder collaboration to create lasting impact for vulnerable populations while supporting national leadership.



**Lori Pampilo Harris - Consultant**  
**Wayfinders Consulting**

Lori Pampilo Harris collaborates with all levels of government, elected officials, federal entities, Tribal Nations, Indigenous groups, and NGOs. Drawing from her Indigenous Pacific Islander and Filipina background, along with personal experiences of homelessness and poverty, she promotes collaborative governance. This approach fosters partnerships between government change agents and BIPOC communities to shape policies that prioritize racial and social justice, acknowledging the importance of building trust and addressing historical and contemporary harm in the pursuit of a revolutionary system.



**Lynn Lewis - Social Justice Organizer**

Lynn Lewis is a life-long social justice worker who believes in the power of collective analysis and direct action to win justice. She met the co-founders of Picture the Homeless in 2000 just after its founding, then worked with and learned from the incredible homeless leaders who together have built the only homeless led organization in NYC, and one of the few nationally, for seventeen years. She has since created the The Picture the Homeless Oral History Project: Don't Talk About Us, Talk With Us! in order to document the work of Picture the Homeless as well as other social movements, and to share those brilliant and nuanced organizing lessons.



**Marisol Bello - Project Coordinator**  
**Housing Narrative Lab**

Marisol Bello (she/her) has spent a career championing the stories and voices of people with lived experience, so they lead in creating the solutions that help every family thrive. First as a career journalist - most recently at USA TODAY - telling the stories of families working to make ends meet, and then in the nonprofit world, where she led narrative strategies to change hearts and minds about those living on the brink and move people to action.

# Presenters



**Mark Horvath - Filmmaker**  
**InvisiblePeople.TV**

Mark Horvath is a pioneering force reshaping perceptions of homelessness. As an activist, filmmaker, and social media explorer, he uses his four decades of leadership and marketing expertise to drive social change. Through Invisible People, a nonprofit he founded, Mark's authentic storytelling approach reaches millions, shedding light on homelessness, challenging stereotypes, and inspiring empathy and action.



**Mike Brickner - Executive Director**  
**ACLU of Delaware**

Mike Brickner assumed the role of Executive Director at the ACLU of Delaware in May 2020. Previously, he served as the Ohio State Director of All Voting is Local, where he led efforts to combat voter purges, secure voting rights for jailed individuals, and address issues with provisional ballots in Ohio. Brickner also held the position of Senior Policy Director at the ACLU of Ohio for 14 years, contributing to various civil liberties causes such as criminal justice reform, reproductive healthcare access, LGBTQ rights, and more.



**Paul Boden - Director**  
**Western Regional Advocacy Project**

Paul Boden currently directs the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), a coalition formed 18 years ago to unite social justice organizations addressing homelessness on the west coast. He faced homelessness at 16 in NYC after his mother's death and began volunteering at Hospitality House in San Francisco in 1983. Later, he worked with the mentally ill, highlighting the need for grassroots community organizing. Paul served as Director of San Francisco's Coalition on Homelessness for 16 years, contributing to the development of accountable community representation, a model seen in WRAP's current work.



**Rajni Shankar-Brown MA, MBA, PhD - President of Board**  
**National Coalition for the Homeless**

Dr. Rajni Shankar-Brown is an internationally renowned Professor and Endowed Chair of Social Justice Education at Stetson University, Vice President of the National Coalition for the Homeless, author, consultant, coach, poet, artist, and equity activist. She leads initiatives like the Poverty and Homelessness Conference, serves as Co-Chair of Equity and Justice for the International Society for Teacher Education and Information Technology, advises New York University's Moral Courage Project, and co-directs the Acts of Kindness and Justice Movement.



**Ruth Jones Nichols Ph.D. - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement**  
**United States Department of Housing and Urban Development**

Dr. Ruth Jones Nichols is a proven leader who has thoughtfully designed and implemented programs within communities that have informed legislators, rallied community leaders, uplifted the voices of the people her organizations have served and inspired public action and support. Dr. Jones Nichols was previously the Chief Movement Officer at Feeding America, and led organizations in her native Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Jones Nichols holds a doctorate in social work from the Catholic University of America, a master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania, and a bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of William & Mary.



**Stacey Matthews - Senior Technical Assistance Provider**  
**The Cloudburst Group**

Stacey Matthews is an accomplished data management expert with almost two decades of experience in nonprofit and homeless services organizations, focusing on advancing analytics and equitable practices. Her background spans service delivery, project management, and human services data management, and she has collaborated with numerous communities to implement data-driven systems to reduce homelessness. Since joining Cloudburst in December 2020, Stacey has been working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to enhance communities' data quality and reporting, emphasizing outcomes-driven services.



**Sue Watlov Phillips - Activist**  
**MICAH, National Coalition for the Homeless**

Sue Watlov Phillips is deeply devoted to her faith and serving the Lord through her passions for Social Justice and Equity, love for others, and ensuring everyone has access to safe, decent, and affordable housing. With extensive qualifications, including a B.A. in Psychology and a Master's in Counseling and Psychological Services, she has dedicated over 55 years to social justice work, particularly in assisting those at risk of homelessness and housing crises. Sue played a pivotal role in creating Elim Transitional Housing, a pioneering transitional housing program and prevention/rapid rehousing model in the early 1980s, serving as its Executive Director until 2012. She is also an author with expertise in addressing the needs of homeless patients with opioid use disorders.



## About Us



# National Coalition for the Homeless

We envision a world where everyone has a safe, decent, affordable and accessible home. Our mission is to prevent and end homelessness while ensuring the immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness are met and their civil rights protected. We believe that safe, decent, and affordable housing is a human right (as written in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article Twenty-Five, Section One).

## Bring America Home NOW

A Grassroots Movement To End Homelessness spearheaded by the National Coalition for the Homeless.

[SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN →](#)

# Bring America home NOW

The Bring America Home NOW (BAHN) Campaign, led by the National Coalition for the Homeless, is a robust grassroots initiative with the goal of eradicating homelessness in the United States. Guided by individuals who have personally faced homelessness, this campaign prioritizes the advancement of federal legislation that addresses the complex issues contributing to the enduring problem of homelessness that has persisted in the United States for decades.



# Leadership Conference

2023

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