

# Do Londoners have a right to the city?

**Tuesday 30 March  
1800-2100  
Bartlett School, UCL,  
Room G02  
22 Gordon Street  
WC1H 0QB**

***London grassroots groups are certainly making it clear what they need, from housing and transport to jobs and the environment. Is there a basic demand that underlies these needs? Is the idea of rights to the city a focus for that demand?***

This meeting explores the idea that **Right to the City (RTTC)** is a good focus for these needs and demands. It is called by individuals from UCL's Bartlett School of Planning, UCL's Urban Lab, the London-based international journal CITY, and the Just Space Network of London community groups.

The meeting is the start of a potential series triggered partly by the talks given last autumn in London by Peter Marcuse, veteran lawyer, planning educator and activist in New York. It takes advantage of the presence in London of 2 activists who have been involved with the US RTTC movement and of the discussion advanced and continuing in CITY by Peter Marcuse and his colleagues.

This meeting will be a series of short talks on the London issues, a short talk on the USA movement and then time for a substantial structured debate and discussion. Admission is free but please book a place with Michael Edwards at [m.edwards@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:m.edwards@ucl.ac.uk) so we can anticipate the right numbers.

<http://justspace2010.wordpress.com>



## More on the **USA Right to the City Alliance** from Andrea Gibbons and Celine Kuklowsky, former members

Right to the City (RTTC) emerged in 2007 as a unified response to gentrification and a call to halt the displacement of low-income people, LGBTQ, and youths of color from their historic urban neighborhoods. We are a national alliance of racial, economic and environmental justice organizations.

Our core members are organizations within RTTC regions/cities that are building a base of grassroots leaders in low-income, working class communities of color to strategically challenge neo-liberal economic policies. Core members are committed to doing political education and leadership development with their membership bases; and engaging in place-based struggles that protect low income communities of color. Resource/allied members are individuals and organizations actively supporting base-building organizations through technical assistance, legal, research and media support, and fundraising.

Through shared principles and a common frame and theory of change, RTTC is building a national movement for urban justice, human rights, and democracy. It seeks to create regional and national impacts in the fields of housing, human rights, urban land, community development, civic engagement, criminal justice, environmental justice, and more.  
<http://www.righttothecity.org>

## More on **Just Space** from Michael Edwards, one of its members

The network links more than 20 London organisations ranging from local campaigns to Friends of the Earth, the London Tenants Federation, Black Neighbourhood Renewal and Regeneration Network, Age Concern London, London Gypsy and Traveller Unit, Race on the Agenda. It has been developing objections to the new draft London Plan and these objections tend to cohere as an alternative strategy for the city as it faces the twin crises of the economy and the environment with a city plan dealing adequately with neither.  
<http://justspace2010.wordpress.com>

## More on **CITY, analysis of urban trends, culture, theory, policy, action** from its editor Bob Catterall

City is a journal of provocative, cutting-edge and committed insights into, analysis of, and commentary on the contemporary urban world. We record and analyse 'the city', cities and their futures, and urbanization from multiple perspectives including: the information and digital revolutions, war and imperialism, neoliberalism and gentrification, environment and sustainability, resistance and social movements, regeneration, resurgence and revanchism, race, class and gender, multi-culturalism and post-colonialism. Together with the UCL Urban Lab, City invited to London last October Professor Peter Marcuse from Columbia University, picking up on the theme of 'Cities for People, Not for Profit', who addressed packed meetings on the Right to the City and spoke up for an urban movement which would be an "alliance of the dispossessed and the disappointed".  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/ccit>