



**Institute for Environment  
and Health**

**The UK Indoor Environments Group (UKIEG) 2004 Conference**

# **Housing and Health: Challenges for UK Science and Policy**

**Department of Health  
Skipton House  
London**

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# UKIEG Key Aim and Objectives

## Aim

- To co-ordinate and provide a focus for UK activity concerned with improving indoor environments for people

## Objectives

- To promote the health and well being of people in indoor environments
- To promote research and research collaboration in all aspects of the indoor environment
- To increase awareness of current activity and knowledge gaps in areas concerned with indoor environments and people

# UKIEG Key Aims and Objectives (cont'd)

## Objectives (cont'd)

- To disseminate knowledge concerned with indoor environments and people
- To promote the effective and efficient design and operation of indoor environments
- To communicate, integrate and network activity concerned with indoor environments and people
- To communicate and liaise with other relevant groups within the UK and abroad
- To promote good practice

# Budapest and Vilnius 'Housing and Health' Declarations - 1

Extract from the signed Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference on Housing and Health, Budapest, Hungary, 23-25 June 2004:

*“We are therefore committed... to taking action to ensure that health and environmental dimensions are placed at the core of all housing policies... and that healthy conditions are ensured and maintained in the existing housing stock. We commit ourselves to contributing to the development and strengthening of housing policies that address the specific needs of the poor and the disadvantaged, especially regarding children”*

## Budapest and Vilnius 'Housing and Health' Declarations - 2

Extract from the Vilnius Declaration from the 2<sup>nd</sup> WHO Housing and Health conference, Vilnius, Lithuania, 29 September – 1 October 2004:

*“Healthy housing policies, programmes and action plans will only be effective if they involve all the actors; this includes all authorities and departments with an interest in housing, health and planning as well as citizens. They address the needs of those most vulnerable to the threats from unhealthy housing – children, the elderly, the disabled, the unemployed and those living at or below poverty levels”.*

## Budapest and Vilnius 'Housing and Health' Declarations - 3

*“Research capacities in the housing and health sector need to be strengthened and explicit work plans developed”.*

*“The impact of housing on health is happening through a large variety of pathways... Implementation of the Budapest Conference Declaration calls for... immediate action and, to some extent, further research [in] the following areas: Housing accidents; toxic chemicals and radiation; indoor air quality; access to basic amenities; mental health consequences of poor housing; energy, housing and health; building materials, furnishings and other goods used at home; healthy choice as the easy choice; pest control in the urban environment”.*