

NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

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New Documentary Shines a Light on the Criminalization of Those Without a Home

Washington, D.C. - A new must-see documentary film, *Under the Bridge: The Criminalization of Homelessness*, shines a spotlight on the growing problem of visible homelessness and one city's attempt to hide the people it should be helping.

Under the Bridge follows the residents of the Davidson Street homeless encampment formerly located under a bridge in downtown Indianapolis, Indiana. **The film tells the tales of several individual campers, showing how physical disabilities, criminal convictions, and personal crises led many to homelessness which became difficult to escape in a city that lacks sufficient shelter and affordable housing opportunities.**

As homeless encampments grow across the country, so does the misguided response of local governments to treat the life-sustaining acts of homeless people, such as sleeping in public places, as crimes. This film highlights the foolishness of criminalization policies by demonstrating how the ultimate destruction of the Davidson Street encampment – when no new shelter or housing options were available – merely moved the residents from the community they called home to other nearby encampments. In this way, the film demonstrates the [findings of a report](#) by the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (“Law Center”) that criminalization policies are ineffective at reducing homelessness, and instead worsen and perpetuate the problem.

This film was written and produced by A Bigger Vision, along with award-winning Senior Producer, Stephen Talbot, who has won two Emmy Awards and two Peabody Awards for his work in broadcast journalism and co-writer and film editor, John MacGibbon, who also boasts multiple Emmy Awards.

A special screening of the film hosted by the Law Center, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development was held on November 30th at the Brooke Mondale Auditorium.

The film will premiere at the Landmark Theaters E Street Cinema in downtown Washington D.C. on December 2nd at 7pm. After the film, the filmmakers and homelessness experts, including representatives from the Law Center and the National Coalition for the Homeless, will host a discussion about the criminalization of homelessness.

You can purchase tickets for the film at <https://www.landmarktheatres.com/Booking/e-street-cinema/2275379>.

You can view a trailer for Under the Bridge at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9D3Qs29vAUw>

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The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (www.nlchp.org) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.