

# Returnees Have To Vacate Abandoned Property Before Being Able To Privatise Their Apartments

The Agencies involved in the Property Law Implementation Plan (OHR, OSCE, UNHCR, UNMIBH and CRPC) welcome the amendments imposed by the High Representative to harmonize both Entity apartment privatization laws this week. The PLIP members would also like to highlight an important change to both Entity laws.

All refugees and displaced persons who repossess their socially owned apartments and intend to purchase them, will now have to show evidence that they and their families have vacated other peoples property. This will accelerate the repossession by Refugees and Displaced Persons of their pre-war properties.

It is also important to note that OHRs decision revoking the Federation two-year rule applies to all apartments which the occupancy right holder left between 30 April 1991 and 4 April 1998, regardless of whether the apartment was declared abandoned or not. The two-year rule thus no longer applies to any apartment in the Federation.

The decisions to remove the two-year rule in the Federation, and to guarantee a maximum discount to refugees and discount to refugees and displaced persons in RS who repossess their property, will ensure that this process takes place in a manner free of discrimination and consonant with the Annex 7 right of return.