

**When Welfare Services and Neo-liberalism
Meet: Neo-liberal Ethics in Juridical
Deliberations Concerning the Right
to Public Housing**

Ella Glass¹

This article explores the ways in which moral and normative views affect juridical deliberations on the right to public housing in Israel. The findings are based on interpretative readings of 38 court verdicts issued in the last decade by various judges in different courts. An analysis of the verdicts reveals that courts in Israel acknowledge both the social purpose and importance of public housing and the socio-economic distress of the citizens in need of such housing. However, they reject most of the citizens' appeals. This article attribute this to a hybrid logic that underlines the verdicts, according to which in order to be entitled to public housing a citizen must act according to a normative model consistent with the values of neo-liberal ethics. This model relies on informal socio-economic criteria which are not met by the majority of the citizens who are in need of public housing.

1 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Tel Aviv University.