



A MANIFESTO · 2026 · CC0

BUILD WHERE YOU STAND.

No permits. No licenses. No fees. No one's permission required.
Housing is a birthright — not a privilege.

[#FREETOBUILD](#)



THE PROBLEM.

Every other animal on Earth builds its own shelter. Birds, beavers, bees — none of them ask for permission, pay a license, file a plan, or hire an inspector. They just build.

We used to do the same. For most of human history, a human could walk into an unclaimed forest or field and raise a roof. It was not a utopia; it was simply the default.

Then, slowly, we criminalized it. Permits, licenses, zoning codes, fees, inspections, and the quiet claim that every square meter of the planet already belongs to someone — usually someone who never set foot on it.

The result: a manufactured housing crisis on every continent. Millions of adults trapped, priced out, or homeless, while empty land stretches in every direction. We built a world where the simple act of sheltering yourself is illegal.

This is not freedom. This is not civilization. This is a cage we agreed to — and can disagree with.



THE PRINCIPLES.

01 FREEDOM TO BUILD

No permits. No licenses. No fees. If you can build it and maintain it, you may build it.

02 CLAIM UNCLAIMED LAND

If land is truly unowned, unused, and neglected, it belongs to whoever stands on it, improves it, and does not leave.

03 NO HOUSING REGULATIONS

Your shelter, your rules. Safety is your responsibility. Adult human beings are capable of judging whether their own roof will hold.

04 HOPE FOR ALL

For the broke, the young, the displaced, the adventurous, the families who just want a roof they own. No movement has the right to lock out the next generation.

05 PEACEFUL REVOLUTION

We build. We document. We share. We grow. No violence — just unstoppable creation, and the slow, loud reassertion of a right older than any state.



THE 4+1 STANDARD.

The movement takes a position on how long the original owner of neglected land should retain the right to object before a new occupant's claim becomes permanent.

The Free to Build standard is simple: no more than five years.

UP TO YEAR 4

The original owner may, at any time, come forward, prove their title, and reclaim the land. The new occupant must leave, with compensation for documented improvements where the law provides for it.

YEARS 4 TO 5

Any peaceful, visible, improving occupant may file a formal claim. The window is public. It can be challenged. It must be undefeated for one further year.

AFTER YEAR 5

If the original owner has not acted in five years, the land belongs — in law and in conscience — to the person who has lived on it, built on it, and cared for it.

Five years is, by global historical standards, already lenient. Many jurisdictions already meet or beat it; many more should.



DO IT TODAY.

01 SPREAD THE WORD

Post with #FreeToBuild. Share your story. Tell your family. Tell the stranger next to you on the bus. A movement is just a sentence repeated by many mouths.

02 START BUILDING

Find unclaimed land in a friendly jurisdiction. Put a stake in the ground. Raise a small shelter. Plant a garden. Document everything in public — dated, timestamped, unashamed.

03 CONTRIBUTE

Stories, photos, legal research, DIY guides, maps, art, manifestos. The open repository at github.com/FreeToBuild is the hub. There is no gatekeeper. Pull requests welcome.

04 FUND THE FIGHT

Direct giving, fiscal hosts, grants, stipends — see freeto.build/fund. Every cent funds research, builders on the ground, and the legal work to defend them.

05 DON'T WAIT FOR PERMISSION

That was always the point.



THE FUTURE DOESN'T NEED PERMISSION.

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freeto.build · github.com/FreeToBuild

#FREETOBUILD