

# Evictions during the Winter Period

Following repeated misleading statements on evictions during the winter months, the Office of the High Representative would like to once again clarify the situation.

The implementation of the property laws will continue unabated over the winter. This includes the eviction of temporary occupants from claimed apartments, and the eviction of multiple and illegal occupants from apartments regardless of whether these apartments have been claimed, or not.

Under the property laws and other legislation applicable to displaced persons and refugees ensure, everyone in need of housing is entitled to accommodation. The responsibility of providing needy persons with housing lies with the local authorities. They must identify housing that can be used as alternative accommodation and make this housing available to persons whose housing needs are not met otherwise.

If the local authorities do their jobs competently, the winter months will pose no hazards for displaced persons or refugees. It is up to the local authorities to serve the public and provide those in need with accommodation.