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Inside This Issue

- 1 Judge Tells the FCC "I am inclined to rule against you"
- 1 Landmark Lawsuit Against FCC with 11,000 Pages of Evidence
- Couple's Despair Over Damp and Mould in Home (Ireland)
- 3 Horry County Schools Covered Up Toxic Mold While Students and Teachers Got Sick
- 4 Five More Military Families Sue Privatized Landlord
- 5 Edinburgh Mum's Ongoing Battle with Council Over Mould (Scotland)
- 6 Edinburgh Council Tenants Fear for Their Health Over Mould Issues (Scotland)
- 7 Seattle Children's Hospital Loses Battle to Keep Mold Outbreak Records from Public
- 8 Living in a Damp and Mould-Riddled Council House for Ten Years (Ireland)
- 9 Court Employees Say Workplace Causing Health Issues
- 10 Lawsuit Seeks Moratorium on New Cellphone Towers at Lake Tahoe
- 10 Quick Links

Judge Tells the FCC "I am inclined to rule against you"

During oral arguments on January 25, 2021, in the landmark case against the FCC, judges appeared skeptical of the FCC's support for its own findings that cellphones and other connected devices pose no risks to human health.

Judge Wilkins, a chemical engineer by training, told the FCC, "I am inclined to rule against you."

The Children's Health Defense (CHD) says: "The overwhelming experimental and human evidence which the FCC has ignored leaves no doubt that wireless technology is a major contributory factor to this epidemic. The FCC has shown that its chief interest is protecting the telecom industry and maximizing its profits. Its position, as put forward in its brief, and as we saw today in court, is simply indefensible." To read the article, click here.

Landmark Lawsuit Against FCC with 11,000 Pages of Evidence

For decades, the public has been told there is no evidence that wireless technology is harmful, and claims of 5G harms have been dismissed.

In December 2019, the FCC closed an inquiry it initiated in 2013 regarding whether or not the FCC should review its (outdated and obsolete) 1996 health guidelines for Radio Frequency (RF) radiation emitted by wireless devices and infrastructure. The FCC order concluded there is no evidence that wireless technology causes harm, and no need to review the guidelines. The FCC decision didn't provide an analysis of the science, disregarded the evidence of sickness and didn't defend its decision with evidence.

In response to the FCC's decision, a landmark lawsuit was filed against the FCC. The lawsuit includes 11,000 pages of evidence. (Links to the briefs and supporting evidence are provided in the article.)

The Children's Health Defense (CHD) says: "The American public has been poorly served by the FCC. The FCC's guidelines are decades-old and are based on scientific assumptions that were proven false. Its failure and disregard of public health is evident in the growing and widespread conditions involving brain damage and a host of complex neurological syndromes."

The lawsuit includes references to thousands of peer-reviewed scientific studies showing DNA damage, reproductive harm, neurological effects and radiation sickness. The evidence shows effects on the brain, including impaired blood flow and damage to the blood-brain barrier, cognitive and memory problems and effects on sleep, melatonin production and mitochondrial damage. To read the article, click here.

See Couple's despair over damp and mould on page 2

Couple's Despair Over Damp and Mould in Home (Ireland)

A woman in Enniscorthy has described her despair over the condition of her house and of how she was made feel the local authority wasn't taking her concerns seriously.

Catherine Leacy-Coniry lives with her husband, Patrick, at The Paddocks in Enniscorthy, in a house which is badly affected by mould and rising damp.

Both of them have severe visual impairments while Catherine also suffers from epilepsy.

Catherine, who works with the Revenue, pays €173 rent to the local authority for the house and while she said they love where they live, the situation in the house has become intolerable.

"I pay €173 rent per week and I've never been in arrears," said Catherine.

"I could go on disability benefit and we'd only be paying €30 per week for rent but I want to work and I always pay my rent, which is that high, because I am working."

Catherine said the mould issues started at the top of the wall last year and that was resolved by the local authority. However, the problem reoccurred and the full scale of the issue only came to light when Catherine asked her sister, Martina to help her rearrange the bedroom.

"When she lifted the bed, the whole floor underneath was covered in mould," said Catherine.

As both her and Patrick are registered as blind, it meant they weren't aware of the full extent of the problem until Martina moved the bed.

"I rang Martina to rearrange the bedroom and when she lifted the bed, she realised the mould was up and down the walls, on the floor and there was water on the socket," said Catherine.

In some parts of the house there is thick, black mould on the ceiling and top of the walls while under the bed there was evidence of fungal growth.



Couple's Despair Over Damp and Mould in Home (Ireland)—cont'd

"The damp is actually wet on the walls and it's right on top of a socket," she said. "There is water on the floor as well, it's actually wet."

"We are living in this and we didn't want to highlight it like this but we felt we didn't have a choice."

Catherine went on to say: "We are both registered blind and Patrick lost two toes because of a fungus."

Catherine is also one of only 65 people in the country who suffers from a rare blood condition called homocystinuria.

She said the couple like where they are living and just want the local authority to fix the problem.

"Ideally, if they can fix it that would be great but at the end of the day, we are not safe," said Catherine. "We love the area but we do need to be safe."

She said she feels like the local authority isn't taking her concerns seriously.

'We feel like they are not taking it seriously because we're paying our rent every week,' she said.

"If I hadn't decided to rearrange the bed, we might not have known just how bad it is. I mean, there was mushroom type fungus on the floor."

Horry County Schools Covered Up Toxic Mold While Students and Teachers Got Sick

Horry County Schools knew about toxic mold in multiple schools but instead of quickly fixing the problem, the district covered it up and allowed students and teachers to get sick, according to a second lawsuit filed against the district.

The latest lawsuit was filed by former St. James Elementary School teacher Mary Burroughs.

While working for the district from 2016 to 2019, Burroughs began experiencing symptoms, including severe headaches, congestion, memory loss, and nerve issues with her hands, the suit says. An allergy test revealed mold exposure.

Burroughs repeatedly reported the smell of mildew and mold in her modular classroom, she claims.

Tests showed "toxic mold levels" in "numerous" Horry County schools, according to the lawsuit. Aside from St. James Elementary, no other school is named.

After the district hired a mold remediation company in fall 2018, Burroughs returned to her classroom full of dust and mold, the lawsuit says.

She claims the principal told her to "just wipe off the mold and dust with Clorox and a towel."

She and "numerous students" immediately got sick. The classroom was "eventually put out of use" to stop the exposure "to severe toxic mold and moist conditions."

A lawsuit filed on behalf of a St. James student in November said the district only hired a remediation company after years of neglect, but the company wasn't qualified to do the work, and a second company had to come in.

Parents of St. James Elementary students confronted the school board in February 2019, arguing mold caused their children to develop chronic illnesses.



Horry County Schools Covered Up Toxic Mold While Students and Teachers Got Sick (continued)

They presented a petition with about 1,250 signatures, demanding that a third-party engineering firm study the building.

Burroughs' lawsuit claims the district "intentionally and maliciously covered up the water and mold issues" so that teachers and students would continue coming to the district's "unsafe and hazardous schools."

The lawsuit does not explain how the issues were covered up, but it says the district knew about problems for years.

The district didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about the latest lawsuit. A spokesperson said the district can't comment on pending litigation when asked in December about the student's lawsuit.

To read the article, click <u>here</u>.

Lawsuit Claims Student Sickened by Mold at St. James Elementary School. Click <u>here</u>.

St. James Elementary School Parents Confront HCS Board Over Mold Issues. Click <u>here</u>.

Five More Military Families Sue Privatized Landlord

Five military families are suing the privatized housing landlords for Randolph Air Force Base for their "deplorable" housing conditions which they say led to medical and financial problems.

The four Air Force families and one Army family allege a litany of problems, including pervasive mold, rodent and insect infestations, seeping sewage and leaking pipes, to name a few. In one family's case, there was a hole in the floor so large, they couldn't regulate the house's temperature, causing expensive electricity bills. Another family was unable to move their household goods last May because of mold contamination; their belongings are still in storage.

The ranks of the service members range from E6 to O6. They allege the living conditions caused a host of medical problems, ranging from headaches and gastrointestinal issues to various allergic reactions and serious lung problems, according to the lawsuit, which was filed December 29 in federal court in San Antonio.

The defendants are Hunt Military Communities and its business entities at Randolph, AETC II Privatized Housing, LLC; and AETC II Property Managers, LLC.

According to its website, Hunt is the largest owner of military housing in the U.S., owning about 52,000 homes spread across more than 40 military installations, including Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps bases.

This lawsuit joins a string of others involving dozens of military families who have sued various privatized housing companies alleging persistent problems with the condition of their houses, including medical and financial issues.

Following media reports and congressional hearings that brought attention to mold and other widespread problems with military housing, laws were enacted in late 2019 and late 2020 to address the problems and force defense officials to provide better oversight of privatized housing landlords, and to be more responsive to families frustrated by lack of action.

This lawsuit joins a string of others involving dozens of military families who have sued various privatized housing companies alleging persistent problems with the condition of their houses, including medical and financial issues.

Five More Military Families Sue Privatized Landlord (continued)

Some of the families in this lawsuit were experiencing problems as these issues were being publicly raised, and as defense officials and privatized housing company officials were acknowledging the problems and vowing to fix them.

This lawsuit alleges that Hunt was aware of the condition of the houses before families moved in and misrepresented that they were safe to occupy; that they failed to repair the houses after families repeatedly requested it; and committed acts of "gross negligence" by concealing those "persistent and toxic conditions" from the families before they moved in and then refusing to remediate the conditions, according to the complaint.

Hill and her husband, retired Army Maj. James C. Hill Jr., and their three children, left their home after three years when he retired, in May, 2020. But their household goods didn't come with them — they're still in storage. Because of tests revealing mold contamination, "the Hill family was informed that they should not take their contaminated belongings with them," the lawsuit states, so they were forced to put all of their belongings in storage.

Kari Hill suffered from headaches, gastrointestinal issues, fatigue, insomnia, tenderness, congestion, excessive eye secretions, anxiety and a dry cough; in 2018, while they were still living in the home, she was diagnosed with fibromyalgia. The Hills' three children also had "significant health problems" while living in the home, according to the lawsuit.

Edinburgh Mum's Ongoing Battle with Council Over Mould (Scotland)

A mother-of-two said she is "at wits end" after suffering with an ongoing mould problem at her council home in the Capital.

The 27-year-old, who wishes to remain anonymous, lives in the Muirhouse area of Edinburgh with her four-year-old son and six-month-old baby boy.

She said the mould conditions in the children's bedroom has reached "catastrophic" levels to the point where her son is too scared to sleep in his own room.

"I'm honestly at wits end and I can't live like this anymore," she said.

"My four-year-old is terrified of it, he thinks it's a big black monster above his bed in the night so he and my six-month old are in my room with me.

"It's reaching breaking point and the response I have had from the council has been robotic.

"I have had issues with mould here for more than a year but it's been a lot worse in the last six months."

During her last encounter with a member of the council she explained that she was told to "redecorate and hope for the best."





Edinburgh Mum's Ongoing Battle with Council Over Mould (Scotland)—cont'd

"I have tried to paint over and wallpaper my son's bedroom three times but the mould keeps coming through."

"He can't sleep in there, it's not good for his health."

"I have been told various things from the council, one being that it was 'down to my lifestyle' as to why it is in the condition that it is.

"But it can't be as the rest of the house is fine, it's just his bedroom, and there's a small bit in the bathroom but it's a more 'normal' amount.

"I just thought that comment was appalling and laughable and just showed such a lack of compassion."

The young mum said she is hoping to move council house but has been told her case "is not a priority."

"It's so difficult when I have had officials come round, look at the mould which is just disgusting, and still not treat our situation as important.

"I have two little boys and look at the state of their room."

Edinburgh Council Tenants Fear for Their Health Over Mould Issues (Scotland)

Residents living in temporary housing and council properties said severe cases of mould and damp should be treated as a priority during the pandemic due to the health risks it can pose.

Edinburgh Evening News published a story about a mother-of-two battling with Edinburgh City Council over an irreparable mould problem in her Muirhouse flat which prompted several other tenants in a similar predicament to come forward.

A 30-year-old woman, who wishes to remain anonymous, said she is "fighting a losing battle" with the council in relation to damp problems at her flat in Ravenswood avenue where she lives with her two children aged four and 11.

She said since repair works have been put on hold during the pandemic, she has been forced to "break" coronavirus regulations for the safety of her children.

"Damp is causing the tiles in my bathroom to fall off the wall because behind them the walls are rotten," she said.

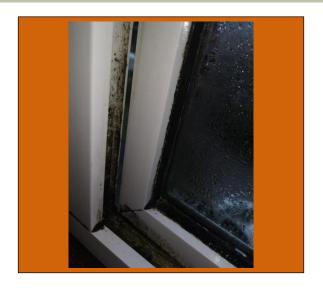
"My daughter, who is four, will not shower in my house at all no matter what I try and say to her."

"I was told not to use the shower, so where and I supposed to go to shower during a pandemic?"

The mother-of-two said damp has spread to other parts of the property which is a cause of concern for her and her children's health.

"I have told the council I would leave the property so they could carry out the work if it meant standing outside in the cold all day," she said.

"Surely it is a basic human right to be able to shower in safety and not be living in a damp-ridden bathroom and hall."



Edinburgh Council Tenants Fear for Their Health Over Mould Issues (Scotland)—continued

"How it's not being treated as an emergency is beyond me."

Lisa Brown is another tenant who said she has had to "literally beg" for contractors to be sent to her home address in Gracemount where she lives with her two children aged nine and eleven.

The 44-year-old single mum claims her landlord Link PSL, a private company used by Edinburgh City Council for council tenants, is not treating her case as an emergency and has delayed repairs due to the ongoing pandemic.

Ms. Brown has lived in the temporary accommodation since April last year after declaring herself homeless, but she said the living conditions are becoming "unbearable."

"I've had to chuck out bedding and clothing because the damp is so bad," she said.

"I keep being told 'put your heating on' and 'open the windows more' but I have tried everything and it's not making any difference.

"I am at breaking point. I am literally begging them to move me, but no one is listening to me."

Seattle Children's Hospital Loses Battle to Keep Mold Outbreak Records from Public

Seattle Children's Hospital has lost a battle in its fight to keep public health records concerning mold infections from Puget Sound area journalists.

Seattle Children's Hospital has seen a host of mold outbreaks since 2005 when it discovered Aspergillus mold in an operating room while investigating the source of three infections which staff determined to be a moldy nitrogen tank.

That same year, a couple filed a lawsuit claiming their 12-year-old daughter was permanently disabled after being sickened by mold at the hospital. The case was settled in 2008.

Since 2001, mold outbreaks at the hospital have sickened at least 14 patients and killed six more largely due to operating room air-handling systems, Seattle Children's Hospital CEO Jeff Sperring, MD, said during a news conference on November 18, 2019.

A class-action lawsuit against Seattle Children's was filed in December 2019 on behalf of three former patients, claiming they were exposed to mold due to the hospital's negligence.

It claimed hospital leaders engaged in years of "coverup, designed to reassure its patients, doctors, nurses and the public that its premises were safe, when in fact they were not."

In August 2019, a King 5 News reporter filed a records request to King County Public Health (KCPH) concerning Seattle Children's aspergillum infections, according to court documents.

KCPH determined the 4,700 pages of relevant records, which included email exchanges by Seattle Children's staff and mold sample testing results, were fit to release to King 5 News without redactions.

Seattle Children's objected to the idea on the grounds that the requested records contained confidential patient information protected under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Since 2001, mold outbreaks at the hospital have sickened at least 14 patients and killed six more largely due to operating room air-handling systems.



In a 19-page court opinion, a threejudge panel from the Court of Appeals in Seattle unanimously rejected Seattle Children's argument for blocking disclosure of the records.

Seattle Children's Hospital Loses Battle to Keep Mold Outbreak Records from Public (continued)

The hospital and King 5 News could not come to an agreement over what redactions would satisfy the records request, court documents state.

Last February, the Washington Department of Health (DOH) notified Seattle Children's that it planned to release more than 800 pages of medical records subject to redaction for only identifiable patient health care information.

SCH argued that 117 pages of those records, many of them related to records held by KCPH, should be exempt from disclosure.

Seattle Children's filed a preliminary injunction on February 14 to block the release of the remaining medical records concerning mold at its facility. It named King 5 News, King County, and the Washington State Department of Health as respondents.

In a 19-page court opinion, a three-judge panel from the Court of Appeals in Seattle unanimously rejected Seattle Children's argument for blocking disclosure of the records.

Seattle Children's lawsuit will be sent back to trial court for review to ensure the requested medical records comply with patient privacy laws.

Living in a Damp and Mould-Riddled Council House for Ten Years (Ireland)

In February 2016, the Laois Nationalist ran a story about the condition of a council house in Portlaoise. At that time, tenant Niamh Tynan complained about mould and dampness at the property. Since then, Niamh says the council has done very little to eliminate the problem and she is now appealing to be rehoused.

For the past ten years, 35-year-old Niamh Tynan has been living in a one-bedroom maisonette in Cóis na hAbháinn, Portlaoise.

During that time, she has had serious problems with damp and leaks in her home, which she says is affecting her health.

Walls and ceilings in the kitchen, bathroom, hall and bedroom are black with mould, are constantly damp and the clothes in her wardrobe are moist and mildewed.

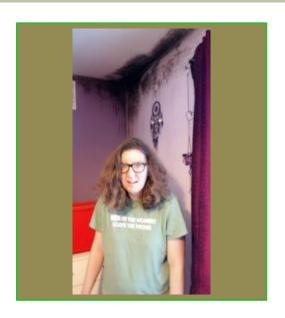
Niamh said that shortly after she went public about the house in the Laois Nationalist five years ago, "the council sent out a few men, who rubbed the mould off the walls and ceilings with bottles of Jiff and cloths. They also put a bit of insulation up in the attic."

Niamh said that since then, she and her mother have constantly battled to keep mildew and mould from returning by constantly cleaning and painting the ceilings and walls but to no avail.

At one stage over the past five years, Niamh and her mother sought advice from a solicitor, who in turn employed a builder to see what the problems were. The builder submitted a comprehensive report of problems to the council but Niamh said that "nothing has been done since then."

Niamh, who is in receipt of a disability payment, said: "When the builder was doing up the list, he said that the house was not fit to be lived in.

"I have a disability. I'm living alone and he told me that I should not be left living in this house because it is too damp. I've been onto the council all the time but they won't do anything for me.



Living in a Damp and Mould-Riddled Council House for Ten Years (cont'd)

"I stopped paying rent for a while to try and get the council to carry out the work but the solicitor told me I'd be better off to keep paying it and not give the council any excuses as to why they can't carry out the work. I'm paying €29.50 a week and I don't owe them arrears."

Niamh said that, at one stage, they put wallpaper on one of the walls but a short while later it peeled off because it was so damp. They have also painted the walls and ceilings several times over the years but "the mould keeps coming back through it."

She says: "I just want to move out of here. I've put up with the dampness and mouldy smell around the house and on my clothes for over ten years now. If the council can't fix the house, then they should rehouse me in a small one-bedroom maisonette somewhere else in the town. That's not too much to ask for, is it?"

Why can't the council look after their properties?

Niamh's mother Caroline Geraghty said: "Why can't the council look after their properties? It would be in their best interests. People like Niamh and others like her should not have to live in such appalling conditions."

Court Employees Say Workplace Causing Health Issues

With its leaky basement, cramped courtrooms and security concerns, many employees are just plain sick of Warren's outdated 37th District Court building.

Some even claim they're getting sick from it. Runny noses. Sore throats. Allergies. A group of court workers, several of whom asked that their names be withheld from this report, said they continually experience uncomfortable symptoms that coincide with their arrival at work.

"Twenty minutes later, my nose would start running," one employee said. "I've had symptoms for three or four years, easy."

It's no secret that water enters the basement of the building on Common Road, east of Van Dyke Avenue, in times of heavy rain or quick thaws. Employees say it comes in at the northwest corner of the basement and that it has in the past flowed through a tunnel that connects the courthouse with the lower level of Warren's police headquarters.

While some events are worse than others, several employees suspect the musty conditions and residual mold left behind after decades of dampness are affecting their health.

"We're running out of sick days, a bunch of us," the same employee said. "I've tried to work through it. In December, I had two and a half no-pay days. I've used every single sick and vacation day as a sick day. I haven't taken a vacation since I've been here."

Another employee with autoimmune conditions spoke of frequent fatigue, headaches and vomiting at work.

"I get a headache almost every day that I work. I'd often have a runny nose or a sore throat, which I believe is from mold in the building," a third employee said. "I'm also allergic to mold."

A mold inspection conducted in February 2017 by a licensed contractor, hired by former 37th District Court Chief Probation Officer Gregg Wilczynski, found mold in various areas of the building's lower level.



Court Employees Say Workplace Causing Health Issues (continued)

A second indoor environmental quality report was conducted last August, and a discussion about the findings of the assessments, building maintenance, water infiltration, potential remediation and best-practice recommendations was included in a letter to 37th District Court Administrator Annette Gattari Ross dated Dec. 6. The letter was sent in response to a confidential employee request for a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, or NIOSH, health hazard evaluation of the court building.

According to background material summarized in the letter, the building flooded three times: on Aug. 11, 2014; July 8, 2016; and July 6, 2019. The summary indicates that employees first reported health symptoms after the 2014 flood and that they worsened after the later events. It was also noted that a Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA, complaint was filed after the floods out of concern for poor air quality resulting from possible mold in water-damaged boxes and inadequate cleaning.

As part of the discussion, the letter states that "research has found that damp building conditions can lead to respiratory illnesses in occupants," and that "damp building conditions promote the growth of mold, bacteria, other microbial agents, dust mites and cockroaches." It states that dampness can also contribute to the breakdown of building materials and furniture, and that occupants of damp buildings can be exposed to pollutants in the air from both biological contaminants and the breakdown of building materials.

Lawsuit Seeks Moratorium on New Cellphone Towers at Lake Tahoe

A federal lawsuit seeking a moratorium on construction of new cellphone towers at Lake Tahoe claims Verizon Wireless and regional regulators are failing to adequately consider potential harm to public health and the environment under antiquated rules that turn a blind eye to modern technology.

A local resident and conservation groups who filed the suit in U.S. District Court in Sacramento say they're trying to protect the same majestic views Mark Twain wrote about in the 1860s at the mountain lake straddling the California-Nevada line.

They accuse Verizon and the Tahoe Regional Protection Agency of engaging in the kind of shenanigans Huckleberry Finn and other Twain fictional characters used to dupe unsuspecting victims.

The lawsuit alleges Verizon and its local agent, Sacramento-Valley Limited Partnership, laid the groundwork for the most recently proposed 112-foot (34-meter) tower in South Lake Tahoe, California with false promises to bring a high-speed broadband network to everyone at the lake.

"In what appears to be a classic 'bait and switch' scheme, the telecoms had promised fiber-optic infrastructure at Tahoe in exchange for massive subsidies but now push their wireless agenda for greater profits," the suit says.

"The telecoms routinely claim that further facilities are justified to meet a 'coverage gap' and provide for additional capacity, but they have actually created that 'gap' and lack of capacity themselves by failing to provide the promised fiber network," it said.

The lawsuit says the Tahoe Regional Protection Agency has taken an illegal "piecemeal" approach to permitting, fragmenting individual projects to intentionally minimize cumulative harm.

Congress created the Tahoe Regional Protection Agency to protect the lake in 1969, the nation's first bistate compact. It became the first regional environmental regulator when it adopted regulations in 1980.

"The telecoms routinely claim that further facilities are justified to meet a 'coverage gap' and provide for additional capacity, but they have actually created that `gap' and lack of capacity themselves by failing to provide the promised fiber network," it said.

Lawsuit Seeks Moratorium on New Cellphone Towers at Lake Tahoe (cont'd)

The lawsuit says the agency performed no comprehensive planning "and routinely approves new wireless infrastructure with essentially no environmental review whatsoever, often at the staff level and commonly without notice to adjacent property owners."

It also accuses the agency of a conflict of interest because the chairwoman and two board members also serve on the board of the Tahoe Prosperity Center, which it calls a "pro-telecom lobbying entity."

The suit says hundreds of studies have warned about human health dangers, and damage that radiofrequency radiation emitted by the towers can cause to wildlife and the environment.

Unlike cities or counties, Lien said TRPA is not bound to defer to FCC standards, "which are antiquated and never designed to look at environmental effects, which of course was TRPA's mission since it was created."

"In 1980, nobody had a cellphone," he said.

To read the article, click <u>here</u>.

Quick links:

Website: https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com

GIHN Papers:

https://www.globalindoorhealthnetwork.com/GIHN-papers