



# Team game: In the net

**Preparation time:** 5–10 minutes

**Activity time:** 15–45 minutes

**Materials:** Plain paper, coloured pencils, bucket or empty bin, balls (or scrunched up scrap paper), instruction sheets x 2, bowl x 2, instruction sheet 1 (list of colours), and instruction sheet 2 (list of scenarios).

**Preparation instructions:**

Before starting, cut the list of colours up and put into one bowl. Cut the list of scenarios and place in the other bowl.

**Activity**

- 1 Give each person a piece of paper and a ball.
- 2 Ask each person to draw 10 small circles and to either name or colour them from the list on instruction sheet 1. Participants can colour or name them with all the colours or just pick their favourites.
- 3 Place a bucket or empty bin in the centre of a room or outdoor space.

**Explain:** The bucket represents all the connections and support structures we have that could prevent someone from becoming homeless, for example good family connections, financial savings, local services and benefits. All of these things can help us withstand the pressures life throws at us.

However sometimes the pressures become too much.

Some people are faced with enormous pressures and yet are able to hold on to their home. Some might be at the back of the room and still get their ball in the bowl. While some people will appear to have advantages and be closer to the net, but this doesn't stop them from becoming homeless.

**Ask:**

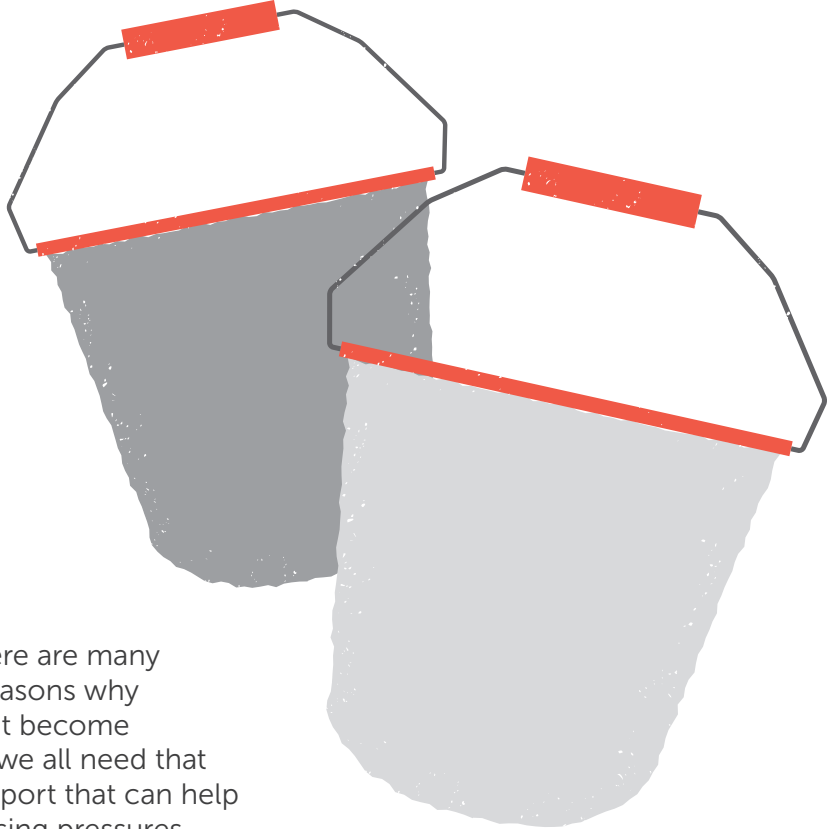
- How do you feel after playing this game?
- Did any of the scenarios surprise you?
- Has this changed your mind about how people become homeless?
- Do you think people in these scenarios should receive help?

**4** Ask each person holding their ball and piece of paper to stand around the bucket.

**5** The leader pulls out a scenario and a colour, and reads them out. If the colour matches one on the person's paper, they can take a step forward towards the bucket. If they have that colour on their paper more than once, they take a step for each occurrence of the colour (e.g. if pink comes up and someone has it twice, they need to take two steps).

**6** Each person will end up at different distances from the bucket. When all the questions have been answered, ask everyone to throw their ball into the bucket. The closer they are to the bucket the easier it will be. Those that miss the bucket will be told they are now homeless.





**Summary:** There are many complicated reasons why someone might become homeless, but we all need that network of support that can help us cope with rising pressures. If something bad happens to you e.g. you become unwell and can't work, you lose your job, or rent becomes more expensive, it is likely that you won't be pushed into homelessness because of your family and wider support available to you. However, that same thing happening to someone else, could be the one thing that pushes a person into homelessness. This doesn't mean this is their fault. We all have the right to dignity and respect and we must do better to prevent and end homelessness.

### What next?

- Write a message of support to people who might be experiencing a hard time now, use social media to share how you felt or what you learnt doing this activity tag **@CrisisScotland** **@CrisisWales** or **@Crisis\_UK** and don't forget to use the hashtag **#EndHomelessness**
- Write to your council and MP, and ask them what they're doing to help people cope with rising pressure
- Find more activities online by searching 'Crisis resources for young people'.