

The APPG for Ending Homelessness Enquiry Session, 'How to prevent survivors of domestic violence from becoming homeless?'



Wednesday 26 April, 15:00-16:30
Committee Room 17

Introduction

The APPG for Ending Homelessness is hosting this inquiry session in order to determine what policies are needed to prevent survivors and those fleeing domestic violence from becoming homeless.

Housing and homelessness are key issues for survivors of domestic violence. In 2016, 90% of women in refuges were reported to have housing needs¹ and in 2015/16, 6,550 people became homeless because of a violent relationship breakdown², accounting for 11% of all homeless acceptances. We know that 35% of female rough sleepers left their homes due to domestic violence³ and the APPGEH believes this needs to be addressed.

The APPGEH have found a distinct policy gap in this area which we aim to fill with robust solutions. The purpose of this session is for the APPG and others, to hear evidence from experts from within the sector and from survivors of domestic violence who have also experienced homelessness. From this discussion the APPG will write recommendations based on the evidence heard and these will form one third of our end of year report on 'prevention'.

The meeting will be chaired by David Mackintosh MP.

Agenda

15:00	Welcome and introduction to session from Chair
15:05	Questions to witnesses from APPG Officers
15:35	Questions to witnesses from MPs and Peers
15:55	Intervention from Home Office Official
16:05	Sector interventions and questions
16:20	Final points and questions
16:25	AOB

¹ Women's Aid's Annual Survey 2016

² DCLG, Live Tables on Homelessness, Table 774

³ K. Moss and P. Singh, Women Rough Sleepers in Europe: Homelessness and Victims of Domestic Abuse, Policy Press, 2015

Witnesses

Lou Crisfield, Housing Caseworker, Miles & Partners LLP

Lou has been practicing housing law, both formally and informally for just over 30 years. She worked for Mind in Tower Hamlets and then Tower Hamlets Law Centre before joining Miles & Partners. Whilst at the Law Centre she developed an interest and expertise in domestic violence work and was a member of the MC of the local refuge for nearly 10 years. Lou has written and presented training courses to community groups and lawyers throughout her career, and during her time at the Law Centre much of this training was focussed on domestic violence issues.

Polly Neate, Chief Executive, Women's Aid

Polly joined Women's Aid as Chief Executive in February 2013. Leading the organisation through a time of significant challenge and change, she is also a prominent commentator on violence against women, and on sexism and feminism more widely. Throughout Polly's career she has influenced government and campaigned for policy change and social justice. Her previous role was as Executive Director of External Relations and Communications at Action for Children. Her responsibilities included public policy, campaigns, research, communications, brand and fundraising. Polly is a journalist by profession and she has also been a member of many advisory and working groups for government and opposition.

Tanya Pinnock, Survivor

Tanya experienced homelessness last year after she was stabbed outside her university on International Women's Day by her former partner. Tanya couldn't return to her social rented tenancy of safety reasons and so was placed in a hotel for 5 days whilst additional temporary accommodation was being sourced. Two properties were identified yet neither met safety standards and she resorted to sleeping on a friend's sofa for two weeks. Professionals highlighted that she would be at high risk if she returned to her property, however no alternative solutions were offered and she went back as she felt there were no other options. Tanya is now living in a new borough and is in the last year of her degree. She uses her experience to deliver workshops in secondary schools on domestic violence and healthy relationships.

Jonathan Joseph, Assessment Manager, London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

Jonathan has over 30 years' experience working in the social housing sector; covering homelessness, housing options, housing allocations, developing housing strategy; commissioning and managing research projects. Jonathan has worked in a senior managerial capacity within the areas of Housing Needs and Homelessness for the past 17 years. He believes in getting it right first time in terms of service delivery, ensuring that the customer is at the heart of the business planning process. Jonathan has worked at a variety of London councils; Hackney, Westminster, Southwark, Enfield and is currently located at Hammersmith & Fulham.

Attendees

Parliamentarian Attendees	Other Attendees
David Mackintosh, APPG Chair Neil Coyle, APPG Officer Will Quince MP, APPG Officer Tracey Brabin MP, Batley and Spen Helen Hayes MP, Dulwich and West Norwood Eilidh Whiteford MP, Banff & Buchan Sarah Champion MP, Rotherham Ian Mearns MP, Gateshead Baroness Manzoor Lord Best Richard Benyon MP, Newbury Chris Stephens MP, Glasgow South West Helen Grant MP, Maidstone and The Weald	Ryan Baldry, Parliamentary Assistant Matt Downie, Secretariat to APPG Rachel Greaves, Secretariat to APPG Harriett Rainbow, Office of David Burrowes Simon Gordon, RLA Sian Hawkins, Women's Aid Guddy Burnet, DAHA Andrew Bazeley, Fawcett Society Lucy Allwright, AVA Tracy Blackwell, Refuge Lorna Taylor, Refuge Joe Sheppard, Changing Lives Bne McDonnell, No Second Night Out Margaret Williams, East London Housing Partnership Lisa Jones, Agenda Cat McGlew, St Mungos Melanie Graham, Connection at St Martin in the Fields Lidia Estevez Picon, Connection at St Martin in the Fields Rachel Kryz, End Violence Against Women Coalition Gareth Parsons, Prospectus Anna Gardet, Prospectus Florence Burton, The Women's Resource Centre Sarah, The Women's Resource Centre

How to engage in the outcomes of this session

The APPGEH welcomes all submissions to its inquiry and should you wish to present information or a briefing please do, this will be taken into consideration when we come to write our end of year report.

For further information, please contact:

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