



Together
we will end
homelessness



A MANIFESTO FOR **ENDING** **HOMELESSNESS** IN SCOTLAND

This General Election, we want every party to commit to ending all forms of homelessness in the UK.

A commitment to ending rough sleeping and wider forms of homelessness is defined as:



No one sleeping rough.



No one living in transient, dangerous or insecure accommodation. This includes people squatting, living in cars, tents and non-residential buildings. It also includes people who are 'sofa surfing'.



No one living in temporary forms of accommodation without a plan for rapid rehousing into affordable, secure and safe accommodation.



No one homeless as a result of leaving a state institution such as prison or the care system.



Everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help that prevents it happening.

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Many decisions about housing and homelessness in Scotland are made by the Scottish Parliament but some issues, such as those around welfare and the support available for homeless migrants, are made by the UK Parliament and affect all parts of the UK.

In this General Election, people will be electing MPs to represent them in Westminster and to make decisions that affect England and the UK as a whole. We're calling on politicians to invest in benefits support and to help some of our most vulnerable citizens:

Increase investment in welfare assistance to help prevent people becoming homeless

This includes:

- Returning Local Housing Allowance rates to at least the 30th percentile of market rents.
- Increased flexibility to lift the benefit cap in specified circumstances related to homelessness.
- Exempting the following groups of homeless people and those at risk of homelessness from the Shared Accommodation Rate: people made a Housing First offer, all care leavers, people fleeing domestic abuse, and people leaving supported housing or who have a history of sleeping rough.
- Ensuring that people who are homeless, or at risk of homelessness, receive financial support that does not lead to increased levels of debt or homelessness risk whilst waiting for their first Universal Credit payment.

- Allow Universal Credit deductions to be set at affordable levels. This could be achieved by granting an automatic three-month delay on any Universal Credit deductions for anyone identified as homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Tailored support should be made available to everyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness while moving on to Universal Credit. This should include funding for Housing and Homelessness Specialists in Jobcentres as part of Universal Support.
- Provide greater legal clarity to prevent tenants in receipt of housing benefit being discriminated against with regards to lettings.

Provide greater support for non-UK nationals at risk of homelessness

This includes:

- Extending the move-on period for newly recognised refugees to at least 56 days and make the providers of asylum support accommodation subject to a statutory duty to refer people leaving asylum support accommodation who are at risk of homelessness to the local housing authority.
- Ensuring that legal aid is available for the areas of law that will help to prevent or relieve homelessness for migrants. This includes immigration cases and early legal help for welfare benefits, debt, employment and housing advice.

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- Ensuring that all EU nationals receive sufficient access to housing and welfare support and assistance to prevent and end their homelessness. Following Britain's departure from the EU, this should also include people who are not initially able to secure 'settled status.'

Steps should also be taken to ensure that all non-UK nationals are provided with at least basic provision of temporary accommodation to prevent anyone from sleeping rough and that support is provided to resolve their immigration status as quickly as possible.

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