



Together
we will end
homelessness

Extraordinary action taken across Great Britain to get everyone into safe accommodation during the coronavirus pandemic has shown that it is possible to end homelessness. Now is the time to do what's right and ensure that, as emergency coronavirus measures are eased, no-one is forced to return to our streets or face prolonged stays in unsuitable temporary accommodation. A safe and settled home for everyone is within our reach, in the short-and long-term for a better future.

Join our campaign and help us to build a future with a home for all.

Many decisions about housing and homelessness are made by the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments but some policies, such as those on welfare and housing for non-British nationals are made in Westminster for the whole of the UK. The UK Government can and should take action that will enable everyone to access the security of a safe and settled home, and bring about an end to homelessness across Great Britain.

Getting 'Everyone In' - Progress so far

The 'Everyone In' initiative in England brought thousands of people in off the streets and into safe accommodation in response to coronavirus in a matter of weeks.

Many people in emergency accommodation have been able to access vital services and support to help end their homelessness for good. This includes people previously locked out of support because of legal barriers – but due to the pandemic, for the first time, support was opened up to all experiencing homelessness.

There is a Scottish Government plan to end homelessness, and the Welsh Government is well on the way to a comprehensive plan of its own, but for these plans to end all forms of homelessness we need the UK Government to take action.

What needs to happen to end homelessness in Great Britain for good?

We need the UK Government to commit to introducing emergency legislation which contains the actions needed to end homelessness for all. That's why we're asking you to join us in calling on the UK Government to commit to the following essential steps:

Roll-out Housing First across England

While not everyone who is homeless has high support needs, Housing First is internationally proven to be the most effective way of supporting people who do have these needs out of the worst forms of homelessness. Housing First is based on the principle of providing secure housing alongside an unconditional support offer for people facing interlocking challenges, often rooted in past trauma.

We've already seen the governments in Scotland and Wales recognise the essential role that Housing First plays in ending homelessness and commit to rolling out this scheme. Crisis is now calling on the UK Government to scale up Housing First across England to provide an offer to all those who needed it, including those who have been newly supported as part of 'Everyone In.' Crucially, this must include a commitment to providing funding for long-term tailored support to deliver it. Research commissioned by Crisis and Homeless Link suggests that 16,500 people in England would benefit from a Housing First approach to end their homelessness.

Ensure no one across Britain is left without a safe place to stay because of their immigration status

Ending homelessness in Great Britain will require removing the barriers that make it harder for people who have 'no recourse to public funds' to move out of homelessness. 'No recourse to public funds' means that people are unable to apply for welfare or housing support as a result of their immigration status – they are effectively locked out of financial support from the state. The 'Everyone In' initiative and the efforts in Wales and Scotland to safely re-accommodate people from the street has given support into emergency accommodation based on need alone on a temporary basis.

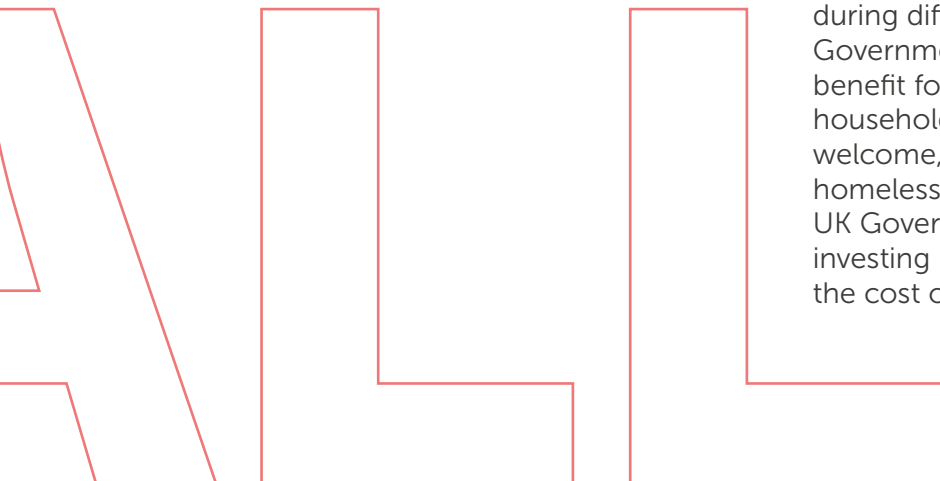
The UK Government should give clear instruction to local authorities that they should continue providing emergency accommodation to everyone who does not have confirmed status in the UK. EEA nationals in emergency accommodation must receive the support needed to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to protect them from being forced to return to the streets.

We also want to make sure that barriers to accessing housing and support are not reintroduced. This means the UK Government must lift 'no recourse to public funds' restrictions so people across Britain can access Universal Credit and homelessness assistance.

Prevent people from becoming homeless by ensuring everyone can afford a home

In addition to housing people, we also need to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place. This requires action by the UK Government to ensure that homes are affordable, now and in the long-term.

The welfare system is an anchor preventing people from being swept into poverty during difficult times. Earlier this year, the UK Government announced an increase in housing benefit for 12 months, providing a lifeline for households with strained incomes. This is hugely welcome, but to prevent people becoming homeless in the future, Crisis is calling on the UK Government to commit to permanently investing in housing benefit so that it covers the cost of renting.



The benefit cap limits the financial support that people can receive, which can force people into impossible situations where they don't have enough for rent as well as essential food and bills. We need the UK Government to invest and ensure that the benefit cap doesn't constrain the effectiveness of other measures of support from the welfare system and helps people to avoid homelessness.

To end homelessness, we need housing and welfare policies to work effectively together. That means significantly increasing the number of homes being built and made available at social rent levels to help bring down the cost of housing in the longer term. And we need to make sure that people who are homeless can access the social homes available now.

Finally, more people who are renting privately are now struggling to pay their rent because they've lost their job or have become ill. It's welcome that governments across England, Scotland and Wales have temporarily suspended evictions in response to coronavirus. To stem a tide of new homelessness cases in England and Wales when these protections come to an end, the UK Government must introduce emergency legal provisions so that judges can ensure people aren't unfairly evicted because they can't keep up with rent through no fault of their own.

Ensure everyone with nowhere safe to stay has access to emergency accommodation

People experiencing homelessness are particularly exposed to coronavirus and will continue to be over coming months. The UK Government should introduce a new duty for local authorities in England to provide immediate emergency accommodation over the next 12 months to all those with nowhere safe to stay, regardless of whether they meet the current legal tests for homelessness support around priority need, local connection, intentional homelessness or immigration status. This will ensure that everyone has somewhere safe to stay, in self-contained accommodation where they are able to self-isolate and shield as needed. These measures should be backed by a dedicated funding stream for accommodation and support.

What can you do to help?

We need to build on the impressive work done under 'Everyone In' and as part of the Scottish and Welsh plans to end homelessness and ensure that, as emergency measures ease, no-one is forced to return to our streets or face prolonged stays in temporary accommodation.

The end of homelessness feels within reach, but only if we work together to make it happen.

Join us in calling on the UK Government to commit to introducing emergency legislation with the measures needed to make sure that everyone has a safe and settled home.

1 Write to Your MP
www.crisis.org.uk/action

2 Share on social media
A safe and settled **#HomeForAll** is within our reach. Ask your MP to call for the UK Government to commit to legislation with the measures needed to end homelessness, both in the long-term and the short-term as coronavirus emergency accommodation ends: **www.crisis.org.uk/action**

Check out all of the Home for All social media materials that you can share **[here](#)**.

For more information on how you can be part of the movement to end homelessness, visit **www.crisis.org.uk/action** or email **campaigns@crisis.org.uk**