

Dear Leaders,

We are writing to you as a collection of the country's leading homelessness organisations to ask you to take urgent action to reduce homelessness and rough sleeping should your party form the next Government.

Everyone needs a safe place to live and the support they need to keep it. No one should have to experience the hardship and indignity of homelessness.

But rough sleeping rose by 27% in 2023 and 60% over the past two years. Meanwhile a record number of people, including over 145,000 children, are currently experiencing homelessness, trapped living in temporary accommodation, often in squalid and overcrowded conditions. These are people, let down by systems that should protect them, unable to achieve their potential, their lives blighted by insecurity.

At the same time, the homelessness sector has contracted significantly. The latest [research from Homeless Link](#), the national membership body for frontline homelessness services, found that the number of bed spaces for people experiencing single homelessness has decreased by 26% since 2010. With pressure on services growing, 71% of accommodation projects reported having to turn someone away from support because their project was full.

We recognise that whoever forms the next Government will have many competing priorities. But the impact of homelessness leaks across public life; from placing huge extra strain on the NHS, to crippling local authority finances, to preventing people from finding secure employment. Ending homelessness doesn't just make sense morally, research from PwC shows that every £1 invested in ending homelessness generates an estimated £2.80 in wider savings and benefits across departments.

Homeless Link's [Manifesto to End Homelessness](#) sets out four key asks of the next Government to create a home for everyone and was shaped by service providers across the country.

If you lead the next Government, we urge you to:

Build 90,000 social homes per year over a decade and reform the private rented sector

From building social homes and introducing a robust Renters Reform Bill to ensuring the Local Housing Allowance keeps track with private sector rent levels, ensuring people on low incomes have access to truly affordable housing, through

a long-term plan, is the single biggest step we can take to prevent homelessness, both now and in the future.

Adopt a cross-Government strategy to end homelessness, led by a new taskforce

Preventing and ending homelessness cannot be the responsibility of just one government department. A joint approach across government, which draws on the strength of teams, is the only way we can do this, ensuring all departments' policies and programmes work consistently and holistically to end homelessness.

Ensure there are a diverse network of homelessness services available to all who need them

Solutions to homelessness are never one-size-fits-all. We must ensure homelessness services are as diverse as the people they support, meaning they're able to meet the needs of a range of people including women, young people, non-UK nationals and LGBTQ+ people. These groups are often less visible, meaning their true needs are not reflected in the current system. We know that if personalised, trauma informed care is embedded as standard, we can find the solutions to ensure no one is left behind.

Embed long-term ring-fenced homelessness funding

Morally and financially, ending homelessness makes sense. Sustainable investment now will prevent people from losing their homes and ensure services have the resources they need to provide effective, efficient support that works.

Should you win the election, we in the homelessness sector, alongside people with lived experience of homelessness, will of course be on hand to support you in creating a society with a home for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Henderson, CEO at **Homeless Link**

Polly Neate, CEO at **Shelter**

Matt Downie, CEO at **Crisis**

Kate Henderson, Chief Executive at the **National Housing Federation**

Emma Haddad, CEO at **St Mungos**

Gavin Smart, CEO at the **Chartered Institute for Housing**

Seyi Obakin OBE, CEO at **Centrepont**

Liz Rutherford, Chief Executive at **Single Homeless Project**

Pam Orchard, The Connection at **St Martin-in-the-Fields**

Michael Chandler, CEO at **Groundswell**

Stephen Bell, CEO at **Changing Lives**

John Glenton, Executive Director of Care & Support at **The Riverside Group**

Amanda Dubarry, Chief Executive at **Your Place**

Charlotte Talbott, CEO at **Emmaus UK**

Paul Morrish, Chief Executive at **LandAid**

Salma Ravat, CEO at **One Roof Leicester**

Mark Grant, CEO at **Action Homeless**

Jean Templeton, CEO at **St Basils**

Natalie Allen, Chief Executive at **Sifa Fireside**

Dr Jan Sheldon, CEO at **St Martins**

Richard Gammage, Chief Executive at **Two Saints**

Andrew Redfern, Chief Executive at **Framework**

Mark Simms, CEO at **P3**

Jools-Ramsey-Palmer, Chief Executive at **Ipswich Housing Action Group**

Andy Powell, CEO at **Society of St James**

Wendy Taylor, Assistant Director of Services at **Cranstoun**

Dom Wood DL, CEO at **1625 Independent People**

Steve Crane, CEO at **Target Housing**

Paul Roberts, Chief Executive at **Aspire Oxford**

James Martin, Director at **Cambridge Cyrenians**

Steve Rundell, CEO at **Nomad Sheffield**

Hilary Bartle, CEO at **Stonepillow**

Helen Bedser, CEO at **Julian House**

Jo Carter, CEO at **Glass Door Homeless Charity**

Malcom Putko, Group Operations Director at **Harbour Housing**

Chris Keating, CEO at **Connection Support**

Martin Clark, CEO at **Allia Impact & Allia Future Homes**

Amy Hull, Executive Manager at the **Marylebone Project**

Keely Dalfen, CEO at **The Brick**

Adam Colthorpe, Director of Communications at **Porchlight**

James Boulton, CEO at **Wycombe Homeless Connection**

Lawrence Santcross, Chief Executive at **Transform Housing**

Tim Fallon, Chief Executive at **SPEAR**

Rob Payne, Director of Homeless Services at **Hope Worldwide**

Tim Archbold, CEO at **Signposts**

Tom O'Connor, CEO at **Providence Row**

David Ford, CEO at **Expert Link**

Marie Davis, CEO at **Falcon Support Services**

Peter Stephenson, Director at **St Petrock's**

Pam Williams, Chair at **Bus Shelter MK**

Nicola Greenfield, Interim Director of Support at **BCHA**

Jonny Whitehead, Chief Executive at **Herts Young Homeless**

Hélène Begg, Chief Executive at **YMCA Brighton**

Tasmin Maitland, Chief Executive at **Catching Lives**

Sarah Lister, COO at **Oasis Community Housing**