

12 September 2025

Dear Shabana Mahmood MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department, and Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government,

We write on behalf of Homeless Link, the national membership charity for frontline homelessness services, NACCOM, the UK network for organisations working to end homelessness and destitution among people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants with restricted immigration status, and 62 other organisations working in the homelessness and migrant rights sectors. In your new roles in the Cabinet, we ask you to give urgent attention to a recent change in policy which we are clear is harmful, will impede your Departments' respective agendas, and should be overturned.

In recent weeks, the Government suddenly reversed its decision to grant all refugees 56 days to find somewhere to live before being asked to leave Home Office accommodation, shortening this to 28 days for single adults. We are extremely concerned that this will increase homelessness and rough sleeping, cause individual harm, put pressure on local statutory and voluntary sector organisations, and undermine the government's commitment to ending homelessness through a cross-departmental strategy.

The additional pressure for local councils comes as the number of people living in temporary accommodation is at an all-time high, and a lack of alternatives will result in further use of expensive nightly paid options for those eligible. Furthermore, to cause higher rates of homelessness among newly recognised refugees at a time when racist and anti-migrant sentiment is on the rise will put individuals at even greater risk of harm on the streets and exacerbate community tensions. We urge you to reconsider.

The 56-day asylum move-on pilot was introduced to bring cessation of asylum support in line with other homelessness prevention provisions and because of the overwhelming evidence that move-on from asylum accommodation had become a significant factor in homelessness and rough sleeping. Over the past two years, we saw a 252% increase in new refugees presenting as homeless to their local authority due to being required to leave asylum support accommodation.

The emerging evidence we have, including testimony from our respective member organisations and from a survey NACCOM conducted of its members, indicates that the 56-day pilot has helped reduce rates of homelessness and enabled more people to successfully move on from Home Office accommodation and begin to integrate and participate in their communities. This helps alleviate pressures on costly homelessness interventions and other public services, and paves the way for people to make a positive start to their lives in this country. The Government committed to understanding the impact of the pilot through a full evaluation due to conclude at the end of this year, but have now reverted to 28-days for a significant cohort of people before considering and publishing their own evidence.

The homelessness and migrant rights sectors have engaged extensively with this Government over the last year, feeding into the Homelessness Strategy, and seeking to help the 56-day move on extension make the most positive impact on reducing homelessness. To have been informed of the 28 day reversal, at such short notice and with no clear rationale, makes the support we provide all the more difficult to deliver. We hope that you will take a fresh look at this and reconsider.

It is imperative that all parts of Government take responsibility for their role in tackling homelessness and ensuring the safety of people in vulnerable situations. We therefore call on you to:

- Reverse this decision, reinstating a 56-day move-on period for single adult refugees - safe and essential transition time that aligns with existing support systems.
- Allow the full pilot evaluation to complete and use this evidence to make wider improvements to the move-on process

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Rick Henderson	CEO	Homeless Link
Bridget Young	Director	No Accommodation Network (NACCOM)
Amanda Church-Mcfarlane	CEO	Abigail Housing
Chris Wooff	Joint Lead of ACAP (Ashton Churches Asylum Project)	ACAP
Chloe White	Deputy Director	Action for Refugees in Lewisham
Mark Grant	CEO	Action Homeless Leicester
Kat Lorenz	Director	ASA Project
Ewan Roberts	Centre Manager	Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM)
Ros Holland	Chief Exec	Boaz Trust
Annabeth Taylor	Policy and Influencing Officer	Caritas Salford
Rachael Williamson	Director of Policy, Communications and External Affairs	Chartered Institute of Housing
Fraser Maclean	Communications and Policy Manager	Commonweal Housing
Chris Keating	CEO	Connection Support

Matt Downie	CEO	Crisis
Fran Wood	CEO	DAR Darlington Assistance for Refugees
Jo Carter	CEO	Glass Door Homeless Charity
Traci Kirkland	Head of Charity	Govan Community Project
Alison Pickup	CEO	Helen Bamber Foundation Group
Rabbi David Mason	Executive Director	HIAS+JCORE
Helen Hodgson	Operations Director	Hope at Home
John Murphy	General Secretary	Hope for Southall Street Homeless
Phil Davis	Director	Hope Projects
Rob Payne	Director of Homeless Services	HOPE worldwide
Bonnie Williams	CEO	Housing Justice
David Ryall	Director	Jesuit Refugee Service
Lisa Norcross	CEO	Kairos Housing
Jenny Willison	Secretary LEDAS	LEDAS - Leeds Destitute Asylum-seeker Support
Seana Roberts	Director	Merseyside Refugee Support Network
Sebastian Rocca	Founder and CEO	Micro Rainbow
Phil Kerry	CEO	New Horizon Youth Centre
Angie Allgood	Director	NEWway Project
Stephen Rundell	CEO	Nomad Opening Doors
Salma Ravat	CEO	One Roof Leicester
Anna Lewis	CEO	Open Door North East
Yvonne Pinner	Project Director	Oxfordshire Homeless Movement (OHM)
Chloe Trew	Director	Participation and the Practice of Rights
Victoria Allen	CEO	Path (Plymouth Access to Housing)
Sarah Wilson	Director	PERN (Penrith and Eden Refugee Network)
Minnie Rahman	CEO	Praxis
Sarah Crowther	Executive Director	REAP : Refugees in Effective and Active Partnership
Nick Beales	Head of Campaigning	Refugee & Migrant Forum of Essex and London
Tim Naor Hilton	Chief Executive	Refugee Action
Enver Solomon	Chief Executive	Refugee Council

Trupti Desai	Administrator	Refugee Support Devon
Nick Harborne	CEO	Refugee Support Group
Rachael Bee	Director: strategy and partnerships	Refugee Welcome Homes
Lauren Scott	Chief Executive Officer	Refugees at Home
Asma Ismail	Project Manager	Resettlement CIC
Grace Burgess	Co-Director	RootsMove
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Natalie Allen	CEO	SIFA Fireside
Aisling	Service Lead	Simon Community Scotland
Catherine Hartley	Co-chair	Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group (SWVG)
Emma Haddad	Chief Executive	St Mungo's
David Lackner-Smith	Director	The Sanctuary Trust
Samantha	CEO	Transition Homeless Project
Steve Hoey	CEO	Turning Lives Around
Dania Thomas	Director	Ubuntu Women Shelter
Andrew Jackson	Chief Executive	Upbeat Communities
Dr Alison Kelly	Director	Voices in Exile
Leyla Williams	Deputy Director	West London Welcome
Ted Britton	Chair of Trustees	West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network (WYDAN)
Paola Uccellari	CEO	Young Roots
Amanda Dubarry	Chief Executive	Your Place