

HELP US TO MAKE SURE ENDING HOMELESSNESS IS PRIORITISED BY THE NEXT GOVERNMENT



As it's highly likely that we'll have a General Election this year, we've been meeting with our local MPs and party candidates to talk about the need to prioritise ending homelessness.

With rough sleeping in London at its highest level in a decade, people are really struggling. Rough sleeping has a devastating impact on people's lives, putting them at risk of ill health, violence and abuse, addiction, and even death.

We need our MPs and candidates to know that voters care about ending homelessness. The more people who contact them about this, the more likely it is that they will listen and encourage their party to prioritise ending homelessness. It's your MP's job to represent their constituents in Parliament, and they need to know what the issues are that you care about.

At The Connection, we've worked to identify three key areas that we feel will have the greatest impact for people experiencing homelessness. You can read more about these [here](#).

- 1 Urgently invest in affordable and suitable social housing for people with complex needs**
- 2 Invest in flexible mental health and addiction services for people with complex needs**
- 3 Ensure gender-specific support for women from commissioning to service design and delivery**

Writing to your MP/local candidate

To make it as easy as possible, we have drafted a template letter you can use as a starting point.

To have more impact, it's best to write something individual so that it stands out. Explain why this issue is important to you. You could include a story of a personal experience, how this is impacting your local area, and relevant facts.

It's especially helpful to speak about specific local issues that you see, and what you want them to do. If you have time, it could also be effective to look up what this person and their party are saying (or aren't saying) about homelessness, and comment on this.

You can find the details of your local MP [here](#) and local candidates [here](#). MPs can receive many emails and some people find the more 'old-school' method of posting a letter more likely to get an answer. Although, if you're unable to send a letter, it's definitely worth trying an email.

Ask them to raise the importance of tackling homelessness in their party, and to make sure that this is one of their party's priorities in the Election and longer-term.

Letter template

[Your address and postcode]

[Date]

Dear [insert name],

I am a resident in the constituency of [insert constituency name] and am writing to share my concerns about homelessness in this area. I'm particularly concerned about increasing homelessness in this area, because [Explain something about your experiences/what you've seen, explaining why this is so difficult for people at the moment.]

As people are struggling with the cost of living, there are many people who are at the most extreme end of this scale and are forced to sleep on the streets.

As we approach a General Election, I'm writing to ask you to raise this with your party and ensure that ending homelessness is prioritised.

During the pandemic, we saw how homelessness could be ended by providing people with housing alongside appropriate support. Yet now that much of that support has ended, people are struggling to get housing and many services are not set up for people who are rough sleeping.

I would like to hear from you about how you plan to ensure that your party prioritises ending rough sleeping and supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities, in the upcoming Election and beyond.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

[Name]