

Support not Deport Charter



Why do we need a Support not Deport Charter

Rough sleeping has become grounds for removal from the UK

From the 1st December 2020, changes to the Immigration Rules have made rough sleeping grounds for refusal or cancellation of permission to stay in the UK. This will render thousands of homeless migrants vulnerable to removal from the UK - simply because they are, or have been, homeless.

For the Home Office to succeed in removing migrants on the basis of 'rough sleeping', they will need data and co-operation from the homelessness sector. There is precedent for such cooperation: reports found that in between 2010 and 2017 homelessness charities including St Mungo's and Thames Reach collaborated with the Home Office to facilitate the deportation of migrants experiencing homelessness.

Core principles of the Charter

We believe that homelessness workers, charities, and council departments should never facilitate, or be made to facilitate, the removal or deportation of destitute migrants by providing data or other forms of cooperation to the Home Office.

Instead, we believe that the homelessness sector must adopt a trauma-informed and rights-based approach to non UK-national homelessness. This should include commissioning immigration advice and specialist accommodation accessible to those with NRPF. As well as advocating for the scrapping of immigration policies (e.g. NRPF regime) that are among the systemic causes of non UK-national homelessness.

We believe that the Home Office represents a threat and potential harm to many destitute migrants. The homelessness sector must have robust strategies to protect destitute migrants from this.

We believe, in line with a 2020 IPPR report, that the 'hostile environment' and associated policies "foster racist practice" and should be resisted by the homelessness sector as part of a wider commitment to anti-racism.

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Key Committments

- 1. The employer commits to not sharing data with the Home Office.
- 2. The employer commits to not cooperating with the Home Office to facilitate the removal, deportation or loss of rights of individuals experiencing rough sleeping.
- 3. The employer commits to ensuring that all clients are supported to access independent immigration advice.
- 4. The employer commits to providing regular training to workers on immigration legislation and relevant policies and protocols. Including, welfare support options for non-UK nationals e.g. Asylum Support, Section 17 Children Act 1989, Care Act 2014.
- 5. The employer commits to this being upheld through working with workplace unions to establish scrutiny panels, and respecting the rights of whistle blowers and of workers to down tools to avoid breaking this charter.

Signature

Date

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Signed on behalf of the union

Signed on behalf of the employer

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