

HOMELESS ACTION CHARTER

When you become **homeless** it can feel like you're **another number**, another face in the hostel mixing in and just **waiting forever** for a house or flat that you can afford. You're a long way from your friends and family. You don't have internet access. You don't have money. You're **cut off from society**. You develop **more problems** than you had when you first became homeless.

I didn't think it would happen to **me**. It could happen to **you**.

This is a problem **we can solve**. And there are small steps we can take to start solving it **today!**



Article 25 – Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948

Recognised that a 'home' was a bare necessity for anybody's dignity and humanity.

NI Executive's Programme for Government 2011–2015

Does not even mention homelessness as a priority to be addressed.

Homeless Action's Charter 2014

Making concrete proposals to the NI Executive to make sure that our rights are made real!

Turn over to read and sign our
Homeless Action Charter
today

To find out more about Homeless Action, contact Michael Moore -
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HOMELESS ACTION CHARTER

THE PROBLEM	4 SIMPLE STEPS
<p>We need to be treated like individuals who have specific needs and guaranteed rights.</p>	<p>We call for the introduction of individual 'Support Pathways' which every person experiencing homelessness receives after assessment outlining their rights, entitlements and the services they will receive in order to be resettled into permanent accommodation within a certain period of time</p>
<p>We are often left in a position where there is no end in sight.</p> <p>We don't have easy access to information about how many housing points we have and why.</p> <p>We don't have support if we want to challenge how we have been assessed. This can leave us with low points and facing a long stay in 'temporary' hostel accommodation.</p> <p>The assessment process should be used to help chart our way out of homelessness, it should help in designing services catered to each individual.</p>	<p>We call for an overhaul of the way in which assessments currently take place for the Housing Selection Scheme to ensure that people experiencing homelessness are considered a priority including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) guaranteed assessment by the NIHE within 7 days of presenting as homeless; b) a full breakdown of points and assisted access to independent housing professionals capable of advising on the housing assessment process; c) health, education, employment and social welfare support services are identified by the NIHE and the homeless person through individual Support Pathways and provided following assessment
<p>The Department for Social Development says only 9% of people ever experience repeat homelessness. Our survey of homeless people last year found that 55% of them were homeless at least twice. Most of these instances are not being officially counted. If the government don't see it as a problem, this will continue to be ignored.</p>	<p>We call for a change in the way which the NIHE currently record 'repeat homelessness' so that everyone who experiences homeless more than once in their life are counted as repeat homeless.</p>
<p>You stay there too long – our survey of 100 homeless people this summer found that half of them were in hostels over 6 months and almost a third were in hostels for over one year. The reason for this is the lack of social and affordable housing.</p>	<p>We call for a quota of 'Support Pathway' social homes guaranteed in the social housing budget provided to end homelessness in all districts, prioritising areas where there is higher homelessness</p>