

2010
European Year
for Combating
Poverty and
Social Exclusion

Sign the Written Declaration 61/2010 on an EU Homelessness Strategy



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Written Declaration 61/2010 on an EU homelessness strategy

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its declaration of 22 April 2008 on ending street homelessness,
- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas homelessness continues to affect people in all EU Member States and is an unacceptable violation of fundamental human rights,

B. whereas 2010 is the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion,

1. Calls again on the Council to commit by the end of 2010 to ending street homelessness by 2015;
2. Calls on the European Commission to develop an ambitious EU homelessness strategy and to support Member States in developing effective national strategies following the guidelines of the Joint Report on Social Protection

and Social Inclusion adopted in March 2010 and as part of the EU 2020;

3. Calls on Eurostat to collect EU homelessness data;
4. Supports the following priorities for action:
 - no one sleeping rough;
 - no one living in emergency accommodation for longer than the period of an 'emergency';
 - no one living in transitional accommodation longer than is required for a successful move-on;
 - no one leaving an institution without housing options;
 - no young people becoming homeless as a result of the transition to independent living;
5. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.

Written Declaration 61/2010

Supports the following
priorities for action:

No one sleeping rough

Nobody should be forced to sleep on the streets because of a lack of high quality services adapted to his/her needs and aspirations. In today's Europe, it is unacceptable that people should have to jeopardise their safety, health and dignity by sleeping on the street.

No one living in emergency accommodation for longer than is an 'emergency'

Nobody should have to stay in emergency accommodation for any longer than can be considered an 'emergency'. Shelters are conceived as temporary solutions to a complex phenomenon. They are not designed as long term solutions for vulnerable people and should not become substitutes to real 'homes'.

No one living in transitional accommodation longer than is required for successful move-on

Homeless hostels, temporary accommodation and transitional supported accommodation all offer intermediate steps towards long-term housing and are designed for the short to medium-term. Unfortunately, these forms of accommodation can become more permanent than they should be, leading to people living long-term in inappropriate situations.

No one leaving an institution without housing options

Nobody who is in an institution – be it a hospital, care or prison – should be discharged without sufficient support and adequate housing options. Young people leaving care, ill people leaving hospital, and prison leavers are often vulnerable and can be helped to avoid the revolving door that goes from institutional care to homelessness and back into care, by being given support and good housing opportunities.

No young people becoming homeless as a result of the transition to independent living

The transition to independent living is a time when people are vulnerable to becoming homeless. No young person should be made homeless because of a lack of first-time housing options, services or entitlement to benefits during the transition to independent living. More can be done to help young people to live independently and access suitable housing options.