

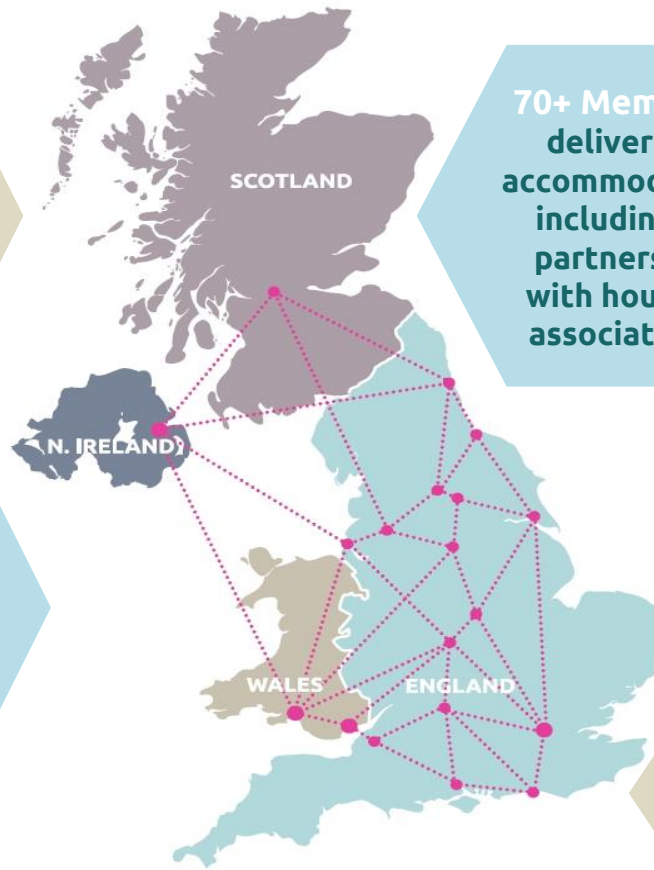
# Accommodation for people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants

**Bridget Young, Director**  
**2 May 2024**



**NACCOM**  
A diverse  
network of 140  
Member  
Organisations  
across the UK

**Our Vision:**  
For the UK to have a fair,  
just and humane asylum  
and immigration system,  
which enables people  
seeking asylum, refugees  
and other migrants to be  
free from destitution and  
to live with dignity and  
agency.



**70+ Members**  
delivering  
accommodation  
including in  
partnership  
with housing  
associations

**Our Mission:**  
To promote best  
practice in and support  
the establishment  
of accommodation  
projects reducing  
destitution amongst  
people seeking  
asylum, refugees and  
migrants with no  
recourse to public  
funds.

**Services**  
Network  
Development,  
Policy,  
Research,  
Advocacy

# Why do people face homelessness and destitution?



Non-UK nationals are impacted by the same mix of socio-economic conditions that drive homelessness across the general population:

- Low wage labour
- Lack of affordable housing
- Personal needs including mental and physical health, treatment for substance misuse, trauma and relationship breakdown
- Navigating complex systems.

# Why do people face homelessness and destitution?

For people subject to immigration control, these challenges can be compounded by conditions created by the immigration system:

- NRPF condition – reality and perception
- Locked out of the support services
- Restrictions due to immigration status (i.e. Ban on working)

**\* Hostile Environment \***

# Why do people face homelessness and destitution?



- Poor Home Office decision making
- Poor &/or limited legal representation
- Lack of evidence or challenges providing evidence
- Culture of disbelief
- Limited or poor-quality support from the Home Office
- Length of time for decisions to be made
- And now in essence a dismantling of the asylum system through the Illegal Migration Act and Rwanda Plan

# Key Insights from 2022-2023 survey



- **3,724** people were accommodated across the network over the year
- **479,474** nights of accommodation were provided across the network (minimum)
- **790** were people who had been refused asylum and were Appeal Rights Exhausted (ARE)
- **977** had refugee status
- \* Before the summer 2023 spike in refugee homelessness

# Key Insights from 2022-2023 survey



- **3,812** people were given financial support by members
- With **2,576** of those not being accommodated by members at the time.
- **1,305** people were rough sleeping, or in informal or insecure accommodation when they approached members for support
- Evictions from Home Office accommodation remains persistently high, and \* before current crisis
  - **2,261** people could not be accommodated by members

# Joseph Rowntree Foundation



## **Destitution in the UK 2023**

- Approximately 3.8 million people experienced destitution in 2022 including around one million children
- Increase of 61% since the last Destitution in the UK survey in 2019
- Increase of almost two-and-a-half times (148%) compared to 2017.
- The number of children experiencing destitution since 2017 has almost tripled with an increase of 186%.
- The report breaks down experiences of destitution further into three groups – UK-other, Migrants (no complex needs), and Complex Needs

# Joseph Rowntree Foundation



## **Destitution in the UK 2023 continued...**

- UK nationals accounted for almost three-quarters (72%) of the population identified as living in destitution
- But people who have migrated to the UK were over-represented among those experiencing destitution.
- The rate of destitution among black-led households was three times their population share.
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of destitute survey respondents reported having a chronic health problem or disability.
- London had the highest destitution levels in 2022, followed by the North-East and North-West.

# Why should housing associations step up?

- Because of everything I've just told you
- It's the **right** thing to do
- There are things you **can** do
- It is a way to meaningfully meet your organisation's EDI and anti-racist practice commitments
- Helps create diverse and thriving communities

While anyone is facing homelessness and destitution it is a stain on our collective conscience and a blight on our communities



# Work in partnership to deliver accommodation



- Cross subsidy model with accommodation leased from housing provider
- Free or peppercorn rent for void or 'gifted' properties
- Use of meanwhile premises
- 'Rent-free' bedspaces in local authority-commissioned accommodation
- Local authority provided or funded accommodation for public health purposes
- Accessibility of nomination rights to long-term housing or move on support

# Provide access to your existing services and support

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- Share housing management expertise
- Provide access to food banks, wellbeing services, ESOL lessons, integration services or welfare and legal advice you may have for your existing residents
- Access to employment support – not relevant for everyone but vital for some

# Supporting local organisations



Could you support local organisations working with people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants with NRPF to help them deliver those services better?

- Office or meeting space
- Admin or governance support
- Access to skills, resources and networks they might not have but you do
- Funding/fundraising and volunteering
- Amplifying their work.

# Worried about legality?



- You already work within and wade through a myriad of rules and regulations, laws and legislation, guidance and good practice
- Whether that's on planning, building regulations, estate maintenance, housing allocations, working with vulnerable families or financial management.
- **This is the same**
- It's about understanding what you can and can't do and working with specialist partners like NACCOM members who can help you understand that.

## Case studies

- **EYST and Pobl (Swansea)** Housing association-led cross subsidy model housing refugees and people seeking asylum
- **Open Door NE and North Star (Middlesbrough)** 5-bed void due to bedroom tax provided rent free as part of a cross subsidy model housing refugees, people seeking asylum & EEA nationals
- **Hope Projects & 5 HAs (Birmingham)** six x 3 to 4 bed houses rent free, housing NRPF coupled with in house legal support
  - **Broadland (Norfolk)** Housing First model for EEA nationals with NRPF

## NACCOM

THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK



### WORKING WITH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS: A TOOLKIT

A comprehensive resource showcasing the role that Housing Associations can play in supporting the accommodation of people seeking asylum, refugees and other migrants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, including those with no recourse to public funds and restricted eligibility.



[www.naccom.org.uk](http://www.naccom.org.uk)

## To conclude

- Glad to see Homes for Cathy's continued commitment to being part of ending migrant homelessness
- The system is hostile and complex
- Always treat people with humanity, respect and dignity
- Good to see this being expanded to removing barriers for a number of marginalised groups
- No-one should face homelessness
- Everyone deserves housing
- There are and will continue to be solutions for people in the asylum and immigration system
- **Be part of the solution**



# Thank you



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To find out more about membership, research, policy, advocacy and resources: [www.naccom.org.uk](http://www.naccom.org.uk)

