

## Homelessness

Homelessness is defined as living in housing that is below the minimum standard or lacks secure tenure. People can be categorized as homeless if they are: living on the streets (primary homelessness); moving between temporary shelters, including houses of friends, family and emergency accommodation (secondary homelessness); living in private boarding houses without a private bathroom or security of tenure (tertiary homelessness).

There are 150 million people homeless around the world and 1.6 billion with inadequate housing. 64% of homeless people are “hidden homeless” which means that the government don’t know about them, for example they could be living on sofas or cars.

### **Facts about homelessness in the UK:**

- Did you know that 30% of the U.K homeless is in London!
- Almost 600 people died while homeless in England and Wales in 2017.
- There has been a massive increase in rough sleeping since 2010, It has increased 165%.
- 170,000 families and individuals are experiencing primary homelessness in Britain.
- 92% of flats in Britain are unaffordable for single people, couples or small families who receive support through local housing allowance.
- Every year more than 150,000 young people across the UK ask for help with homelessness.

Rough sleepers are more likely to be victims of violence and a homeless rough sleeper is much more likely to commit suicide than a normal person.

I went and talked to a few homeless people on the street and my heart went out to them. The first was a man who looked like he was in his fifties, he was holding a cup and begging the passers-by for some money. My dad and I went up to him and passed him 20 pounds and tried to ask him a few questions but unfortunately, he didn’t speak English. We deduced that he was Romanian, and he had come here with his family of four. Sadly, he had a back operation and couldn’t lift anything above 2kg which meant he couldn’t work and provide for his family. He needed £250 a month to maintain his home which he was struggling to achieve.

Then we found another homeless person who was in his 20s. He was Italian and fortunately he spoke English. His story was that he came from Italy and did various jobs in London. Then the pandemic struck, and he lost his job. The people he was living with moved out and changed the locks so he became homeless. Another disastrous thing happened next, he lost his ID and so couldn’t get another job. He said he had called a lot of job agencies but they all said that he needed some identification papers. Then they told him to call another agency which said the same things. He said it was 17 pounds for a week at the homeless shelter nearby, so we gave him 20 pounds.

I also slept outside in my garden to see how it was sleeping rough like a homeless person. I didn't really mind sleeping on the grass but towards midnight, it became very cold and I had to get additional blanket to sleep. I can't imagine someone doing that for weeks or months.

In conclusion, we should help homeless people. If you see a homeless person, talk to him, hear his story and help him with what he needs rather than what you may think he wants. If everyone gave a homeless person 50p he would probably be set for a couple of months.

You can help by donating to a number of organizations that help the homeless every year for example Crisis, Centrepont, Shelter and St Mungo's.

Crisis: <https://www.crisis.org.uk/>

Shelter: <https://england.shelter.org.uk/>

St Mungo's: <https://www.mungos.org/homelessness>

Centrepont: <https://centrepont.org.uk/>

Here is a video that inspired me to do this

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRRbCzZH\\_HY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRRbCzZH_HY)

I hope you enjoyed my publish for raising awareness for homelessness.