

ON BEHALF OF THE **10,480 CHILDREN** TRAPPED IN TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION



Shelter Scotland
Scotiabank
6 South Charlotte Street
Edinburgh
EH2 4AW

Dear First Minister,

We are writing to you as a group of parents who are currently trapped in temporary homeless accommodation. Our children are growing up without a home – in accommodation that doesn't meet their needs, in accommodation that affects their safety, health and education.

Living in temporary accommodation means we can't relax as we don't know how long we will live here. For many of us, the accommodation doesn't have space for our children to play or do their homework properly, and it's not safe for them to go outside. Some of us have to spend hours each day travelling to school, and our children can't see their friends and family. Our children's mental health and our own as parents is struggling. It is not a childhood we want for our children.

There have been lots of promises by people in charge that they will fix the housing emergency that has left us in this situation. But we don't need more promises – we need action and real change to find our children the homes they need.

We know that you are well aware of the importance of safe, happy and healthy childhoods and we know that you believe that something needs to change. But every day is another night we've spent without a home. We are not the only families in this situation – there are over 10,000 children in temporary accommodation. But please don't think of our children as just a number.

We cannot wait any longer. We need you and your government to act now.

We look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

**Kawthar, Sahar, Bolanle, Samantha, Abbie,
Rachael, Sarah, Ramat, Ashley and Denisa**

We, the undersigned, stand with the parents who have signed this letter, and all children and their families in temporary accommodation, and we demand action:

Gordon Llewellyn-MacRae Interim Director at Shelter Scotland

Laura Millar CEO at Fife Gingerbread

Louise Hunter Chief Executive, Includem

Claire Telfer Head of Scotland, Save the Children

Nicola Killean Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland

Mary Glasgow Chief Executive, Children First

Cara Hilton Senior Policy and Public Affairs Manager (Scotland), Trussell

Margaret-Ann Brunjes Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland

Justina Murray Chief Executive, Aberlour

Emma Jackson Assistant Director Policy & Research, Citizens Advice Scotland