

Are you with us?

We're fighting for a Scotland where everyone has a place to feel safe. Where no one chooses between food and rent, and no one sleeps on the streets. We all have the right to a good home and we want to make it the law. Are you with us?

Charter for Change

Shelter Scotland has recently launched a new housing rights campaign. Housing is a human right, but not everyone currently has a home. Only by working together can we make a home for everyone a reality in Scotland. Your organisation is crucial in making this happen.

Adopt the Charter for Change to show your support for housing as a human right, and to show your commitment to help make the changes Scotland needs.

[Organisation name] believes everyone should have a safe, secure and affordable home.

We adopt the Charter for Change to show our commitment to a Scotland where:

- **Stronger laws ensure there is a right to a safe, secure and affordable homes for all**
- **Everyone knows and can defend their housing rights**
- **Laws are not broken and rights are upheld**

We pledge to take the following actions to reach this goal:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Are you with us?

What is the problem?

There are significant gaps in housing legislation: while existing laws include many strong housing rights, there is no legally enforceable right to a safe, secure and affordable home for everyone in Scotland. In addition, many people are unaware of their existing housing rights and current laws protecting people's housing rights are routinely broken.

Shelter Scotland is campaigning for a Scotland where:

1. Stronger laws ensure there is a right to a safe, secure and affordable homes for all.
2. Everyone knows and can defend their housing rights.
3. Laws are not broken and rights are upheld.

and we need you to make this a reality in Scotland.

We encourage your organisation to adopt our **Charter for Change** and pledge to make the changes Scotland needs to ensure that a safe home is a right, and not a privilege.

What pledges can my organisation make?

There are some specific actions that we believe will help reach the goal of a safe, secure and affordable home for everyone in Scotland, like championing human rights as housing rights, using your voice and connections, and highlighting what parts of the housing emergency affect the individuals you work with. Specifically, we'd love if you could help us gain signatures to the petition to the Scottish Parliament to ensure human rights in relation to housing rights are strengthened. We've listed some of these below.

BUT we know there is lots of great work taking place across Scotland – and that often you will be uniquely aware and uniquely placed to take some of the local actions that will make the difference to your community of interest. For example, do you need to highlight some research or data on housing needs for your community? Can you see the local barriers to change that need to be overcome? In those cases – it's over to you, but we're happy to give support to help you shape your pledge!

Are you with us?

Use your voice

- Speak out to show your support for everyone in Scotland having a safe, secure and affordable home. This could include writing a blog or article, or some social media activity (check out our resources section for support).
- Spread the word with your contacts, members or clients on the three pillars of the campaign.
- Include a section on the petition or campaign in your newsletter or at your next event to help show public support for a right to a safe, secure and affordable home for everyone.
- Campaign with us: identify and highlight local issues and solutions, find or work with local allies, and make change!

Use your influence

- Host a rights awareness course, put up a poster on housing rights in your waiting room, or carry a stack of 'housing rights' cards.

Use your experience

- Review your own policies and practice and ensure staff are skilled and engaged with the housing rights agenda.
- Consider how you can make sure you're taking a human rights-based approach in your service – are people engaged in decisions that affect them? What opportunities do you have for client involvement?
- Think: what housing issues affect the people you work with? Is there distinct problems in your geographical area? What needs to be done locally to tackle this – and how can other people supporting this campaign help? Could you publish a report or data? Or organise an event to bring the right people together?

Are you with us?

What next?

We want to work together! If your organisation agrees that a safe home should be a right not a privilege, then:

- Please get in touch to talk about ways we can collaborate and how your organisation can officially adopt the Charter for Change (photographs, social media, press release etc).
- Look at the resources available and decide on what pledges you want to make, we can share this on our website alongside other people and organisations who support the campaign.

Contact:

Please email the team at campaignscotland@shelter.org.uk or call Lisa on 0344 515 2469.

**Fight for the right to a safe,
secure, affordable home.**

Sign the petition today.

Are you with us?

Resources

We have lots of resources available for you to find out more about housing rights, or to share information about the housing emergency.

- Undertake our free course in [Equality and Human Rights Law in Housing and Homelessness](#), & have a look at the other courses we offer whilst you're there.
- Register your interest in a free rights awareness workshop. Contact scotwras@shelter.org.uk for more information.
- Raise awareness of rights for the people you work with: contact us for posters, leaflets, or small housing rights cards and we'd happily send some out.
- Follow Shelter Scotland on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram for lots of shareable content.
- Check our [housing statistics pages](#) for the latest homelessness and housing statistics – both national and by local authority. Or, our [campaign briefing](#) contains statistics relevant to the campaign.
- Coming soon: local campaign briefings for Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. [Contact us](#) if you'd like an alert when they're published.