

# Local Housing Rights Defenders

## Using the Problem Tree

The problem tree helps you break down an issue. It helps to visualise the causes of and the effects flowing from an issue, making you able to explain the impact on society at large.

### What is a problem tree?

The problem tree is a visual tool that maps out the causes and effects of an issue. It helps break down and explore the anatomy of why an issue has arisen, and what impact it has on an affected community.

### When should I use a problem tree?

Taking on systemic problems can be daunting; it is easy to feel overwhelmed with big issues such as street homelessness. The problem tree helps you break down these big questions into more manageable chunks. By organising the causes and effects, you can prioritise your goals and targets in an effective way.

### How to I use a problem tree?

#### Issue

At the trunk of the tree, start with your 'issue' - the big problem you would like to solve. Are you worried about unaffordable housing? Rising homelessness? Or bad quality housing? Put it next to your trunk!

#### Causes

At the roots of your tree, think about what the causes of this issue are. Is there a lack of resources? Or is there a lack of oversight? Are people aware of the issue? Who is responsible? Any cause you can think of, put it in your roots!

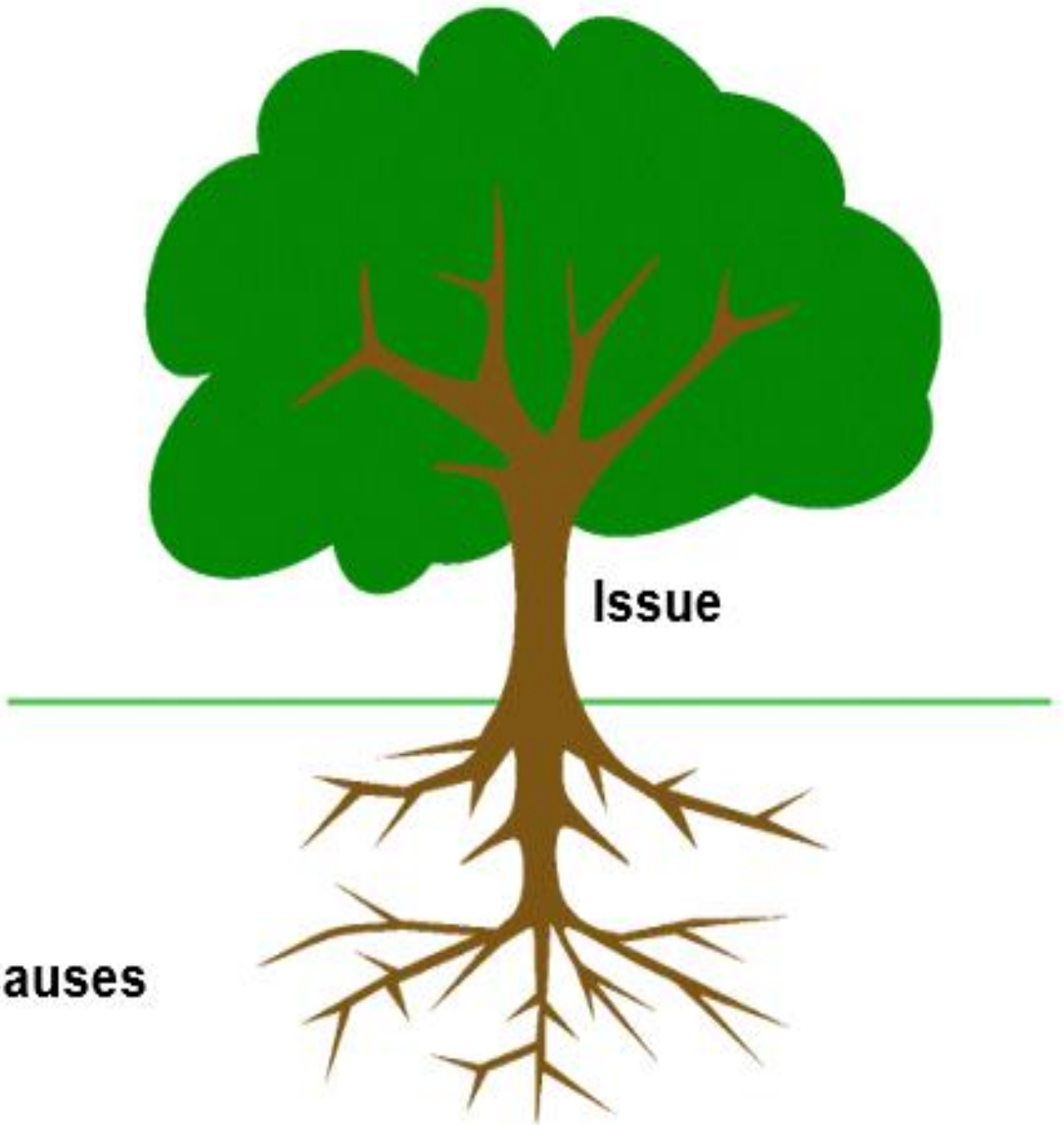
#### Consequences

What are the adverse effects of your issue? This can be very direct visible effect or knock-on effects that might not be as straightforward. How is this issue affecting the body and mind of people involved? This helps you formulate the reasons why your campaign issue is important and why it needs to change.

**Now you have mapped out your problem tree, you can look at your roots and pick out which causes you can tackle, before using the solution tree to map out your vision for a better future!**

**Problem tree on next page...**

**Consequences**



**Causes**

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