

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?

Shelter Scotland's campaign for housing rights – update

- Over 10,000 members of the public have signed a petition for an enforceable human right to housing in Scotland in the last 3 months.
- The petition will be delivered to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning on Tuesday 10th December 2019, Human Rights Day.
- Cross-party political support for the campaign has been secured from more than half of all MSPs, as well as dozens of councillors, MP candidates and some councils, plus a [parliamentary motion from Bruce Crawford MSP](#).
- Over 20 organisations have adopted a charter for change to show their support for strengthening the right to housing in Scotland, and to pledge actions they can undertake to achieve this.

Whilst housing is a human right, there is a gap between this technical right and what is protected under domestic law. And too often the existing laws and housing rights remain beyond the reach of too many. People don't know what their rights are and public bodies, struggling under the weight of cuts in services and increases in demand, are unable to enforce them. For thousands, a safe, secure and affordable home is still out of reach. We believe that citizens need better protection to secure their right to a home.

Last year, 29,894 households were made homeless, the equivalent of one every 18 minutes, and councils broke the law and denied people their right to temporary accommodation over 3,000 times. Many people were forced to sofa surf or sleep on the streets as a result. Rough sleeping in Scotland is rising and 1 million households in Scotland are in poverty after they've paid their rent or mortgage.

Shelter Scotland is campaigning for a Scotland where:

- New laws enhance and protect the right to a safe, secure and affordable home for all.
- Everyone knows and can defend their housing rights.
- Rights are upheld and laws cannot be routinely broken.

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What next?

Human Rights Day, celebrated on 10th December 2019, marks one year since the First Minister's Advisory Group on Human Rights Leadership published their recommendations for a new Act of the Scottish Parliament to establish a new human rights framework to improve people's lives, and one year since the First Minister committed to setting up a taskforce to take forward the Advisory Group's recommendations. It also marks the day that we submit our petition to the Housing Minister, Kevin Stewart MSP to show the breadth and depth of political, sectoral, and public support for strengthening the human right to housing in Scotland.

We will continue to campaign for public and political support for our campaign goals and to ensure that the right to housing is enshrined in law.

To help make housing rights, human rights:

- **Politicians can sign up** to show their support for action to help realise the human right to housing for everyone in Scotland, including supporting the parliamentary motion.
- Organisations can **adopt the Charter for Change** and commit to make the changes Scotland needs to ensure there's a safe, secure and affordable home for everyone.
- Individuals can sign up to **become housing rights defenders** and use their voice to raise awareness about the housing emergency - and the solutions. Share information on social media with the hashtag #areyouwithus, and stay in touch with our campaign for more information and some specific acts you can take.

More information is available at shelterscotland.org/areyouwithus.¹

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¹ All statistics are available at Shelter Scotland (August 2019) [Are you with us campaign briefing](#)