

# Housing Justice:

Scaling solutions for a Scotland  
where **everyone** has a **home**



Scottish Parliament Election 2026

Calls from the **Everyone Home Collective** and **All in For Change**

# Who we are: our collective commitment

In a powerful collaboration for change, **Everyone Home** – a collective of nearly 40 third and academic sector organisations focused on housing and homelessness in Scotland – joins forces with **All in for Change**: uniting lived experience and practitioner insight of homelessness to enable decision-makers to drive real change.

Together, we harness a wealth of knowledge and expertise, unparalleled in its scope. United, we present a manifesto that draws on both rigorous research and lived experience to address Scotland’s homelessness emergency head on.

## Our manifesto in summary

We urge Scotland to put **Housing Justice** at the heart of the Scottish Parliament Election 2026.

- Homelessness hits people and places in different ways, but the solutions are the same everywhere in Scotland: more affordable homes, higher incomes, joined-up support and early action.
- Invest in these essentials – stop wasting millions on private firms delivering unsafe, unsuitable temporary accommodation.
- We must protect those hit hardest while scaling solutions for a Scotland where everyone has a home.

Read on to learn how we scale proven, people-first solutions.

### Homeless Network Scotland

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Homeless Network Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland (SC0 03453) and company limited by guarantee (SC112361).  
Registered Office: Adelphi Centre, 12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PQ. CEO: Dr Margaret-Ann Brünjes

## In Scotland...



**8%**<sup>1</sup>

of us (1 in 12),  
has experienced  
homelessness

**693,000**<sup>2</sup>

households  
have some form  
of housing need

**191,000**<sup>3</sup>

people experience  
some form of severe  
disadvantage

**40,688**<sup>4</sup>

households  
made an application  
to their council for  
help with  
homelessness  
last year

**17,240**

households<sup>4</sup> are living  
in temporary  
accommodation,  
which includes  
**10,180** children

Those households  
wait on average  
**238** days for  
a settled home<sup>4</sup>



**£106**<sup>5</sup> million  
spent in one year by  
one council to provide  
temporary  
accommodation,  
much of it  
unsuitable

## Unveiling the Crisis

### The time for half-measures has passed.

The 2026 Scottish Parliament election is a pivotal opportunity to reshape our vision for a Scotland where **everyone** has a home.

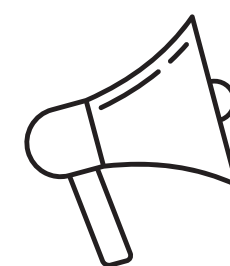
We know how to end homelessness in Scotland. But achieving it hinges on the policies – and resources – proposed by political parties.

While we build on **strengths** such as robust legal rights, a strong social housing sector and an expert third sector, **challenges** persist: rights are breached daily, policies remain unimplemented and the most disadvantaged people in our communities face barriers to support. Councils are forced to spend millions on unsuitable temporary fixes, while people are forced to put their lives on hold.

### Scotland must address critical gaps:

- Insufficient social housing.
- Persistent poverty and inequality which drives homelessness.<sup>3</sup>
- Underfunded and disconnected services.
- Lack of prevention focus.

### Five solutions need scaled. Our manifesto sets out how.



**S**

Supply Housing

**C**

Coordinate Support

**A**

Adapt Funding

**L**

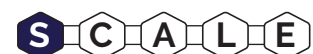
Lock-in Rights

**E**

Ensure Equality

# Supply Housing

We call for Scotland's 'Big Build' – an ambitious, rapid expansion of social housing to meet the urgent scale of need.



## Nothing less will do.

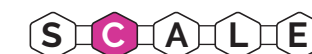
Stalling social housing means nearly 250,000 people on a waiting list. It means being trapped in temporary accommodation for longer than ever, costing councils millions every year. And it jeopardises the transformative promise of Housing First for those at the hardest edge – more harm, more exclusion.

### The next Scottish Government must:

- Deliver enough new social homes to reduce housing need and tackle homelessness, by buying and building a minimum of 15,693 social homes every year of the next parliament, backed by at least £8.8bn of investment.<sup>7</sup>
- Produce a real-world and long-term Affordable Housing Supply Programme across political cycles – to create the homes we need, and regenerate communities.
- Increase support for councils to end the use of temporary accommodation that is unsuitable, unsafe and expensive.<sup>5</sup>
- Be a key investor and partner in the More Homes Commission bringing social investment to the table.
- Ensure maximum use is being made of all existing housing stock, including social voids and privately-owned empty properties.

# Coordinate Support

We call for joined up support that wraps housing, health, social care and justice services around people.



## We need to grasp the nettle

on how services are set up so no one is left behind. We need joined-up, properly resourced public services to tackle interconnected challenges like mental health, homelessness, justice and addiction – ending costly inefficiency, tackling inequality and improving health equity and wellbeing among the most disadvantaged groups.<sup>8</sup>

A whole system approach to change will move more people on from homelessness and prevent it too. The success of the Housing Bill's 'Ask and Act' duties depends on it.

### The next Scottish Government must:

- Commit to delivering public service reform that puts prevention and a 'no wrong door' integrated service delivery model at the heart of support.
- Ensure all services that can prevent homelessness – like justice and mental health – are properly resourced and understand their role in diverting people from crisis as early as possible.
- Provide delivery resources to implement 'Ask and Act', based on the learning of the prevention pilots – and fund proper training for staff to deliver those new duties well.



## Adapt Funding

**We call for financial policy that matches the energy and ambition of housing and homelessness policy.**



**Every government action reflects a choice,**

but spending decisions reveal what matters. Scotland has prioritised housing and homelessness in policy, yet a sector growing increasingly impatient awaits the funding to match.

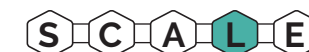
The sector would also back bold reforms on tax and land use to make Scotland's 'big build' a reality so everyone can have a home. This must be backed up with flexible pooling of resources across housing, health, justice and social care to get better outcomes for people facing multiple disadvantage.

**The next Scottish Government must:**

- Use tax powers in a targeted way to raise a transformative amount of capital funding for housing.
- Establish long-term funding stability for councils to implement Rapid Rehousing plans, including cost-sharing models for Housing First and supported housing – multi-year funding also gives services, frontline workers and the people they support more certainty.

## Lock-in Rights

**We call for strong action to enact and enforce Scotland's 25-year legacy of strong rights to housing and support.**



**The right to housing is vital when times are tough.**

For example, when the public sector is forced to weigh up its priorities. Since devolution, Scotland has removed legal hurdles to housing by abolishing priority need, suspending local connection rules, expanding unsuitable accommodation restrictions and reducing the assessment of whether homelessness is intentional. Today, new duties to prevent homelessness are in the passed Housing (Scotland) Bill.<sup>9</sup>

But we argue that rights without resources to deliver them is a hollow promise, offering little beyond a symbolic gesture.

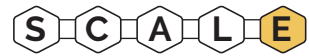
**The next Scottish Government must:**

- Provide a commitment that diluting housing rights is not on the table. Everyone's rights must be met regardless of their background, circumstances and demographics.<sup>10</sup>
- It is unacceptable that breaches of housing rights are the norm. Review funding requirements to ensure our local authorities can deliver everyone's rights.
- Explore ways for registered social landlords to increase homeless allocations, including mandated percentages.



# Ensure Equality

**We call for fast-track access to housing and support for groups facing systemic disadvantage and exclusion.**



## **Identify the worst off to prevent the worst harm.**

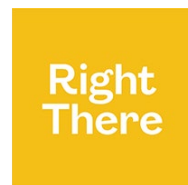
Scotland's housing emergency threatens to deepen exclusion and put people at risk of harm in a range of ways. This includes people whose homelessness is made harder by addiction, trauma or mental health challenges; racism<sup>11</sup>, gender, disability, age or identity; or because of their immigration status and the impact of UK policy.<sup>12</sup>

## **The next Scottish Government must:**

- Close the gap for people disproportionately affected by homelessness because of poverty, inequality and inequity.
- Maximise use of devolved powers to strengthen the safety net for people with No Recourse to Public Funds.<sup>13</sup>
- Take a public health approach to homelessness by committing more resource to understanding and mitigating the drivers of the problem.<sup>14</sup>
- End the need for anyone to sleep rough year-round.<sup>15</sup>
- Commit to making the domestic abuse Fund to Leave permanent.
- Continue to mitigate the adverse effects of UK welfare policies.







# Endnotes

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and homelessness.

Find out more at [www.everyonehome.scot](http://www.everyonehome.scot)