NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

NACCOM network and pathways to ending destitution for people with NRPF

Tom MacPherson
Network Development Co-ordinator at **NACCOM**

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Our Vision:
To bring an end to destitution amongst people seeking asylum, refugees and migrants with no recourse to public funds living in the UK

Our Mission:
To promote best practice in and support the establishment of accommodation projects that reduce destitution amongst people seeking asylum, refugees & migrants with no recourse to public funds

NACCOM
A very diverse Network of 137 Members (charities, projects, housing associations)

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

2771 accommodated across the network
29% asylum NRPF
17% other NRPF
19% refugees
35% other

137 Members
75 Providing Accommodation

404 people with NRPF moved on:
84% some form of Leave to Remain, Home Office or other Statutory Support

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Why do people become destitute and have no recourse to public funds (NRPF)?

- NRPF - not eligible for statutory homelessness assistance or means-tested welfare benefits
- There are various ways in which people who have come to the UK find themselves without ‘recourse to public funds’ and therefore in need of accommodation and support
- At the heart of our membership, and the group of people our members most often work with, are people who are seeking asylum and have had their asylum claim refused and since exhausted all of their appeals rights (ARE)

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Why does someone become ARE in the first place?

- Lack of evidence
- PTSD leading to inconsistencies and credibility issues
- Poor legal representation
- Solicitors only get £413 fixed fee from the legal aid agency for asylum claims up until initial decision. The fee equates to 8 hours of work. If they go over this, then in effect they are working pro-bono.
- Poor HO decision making

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

- As a result, their Home Office support (NASS) is terminated
- Often at this point individuals are left without accommodation, unable to return home (just because their claim has been refused doesn't mean the reason they fear returning – persecution, torture and risk of death – just disappears)
- People are left in limbo. People can carry on in this situation for months or even years, and without the Home Office ever trying to issue removal proceedings

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Other migrants at risk of destitution and NRPF:

- Refugees who have been given refugee status or other leave but do not yet have the documentation necessary to claim benefits or apply for housing
- People trafficked into the UK for work or other reasons who have not (yet) been able to secure recognition of their status as a victim of trafficking
- People who have lost their documentation and so cannot prove their right to access benefits
- People whose leave includes a condition of NRPF but who can no longer support themselves because of a change in circumstances (employment or sponsor's employment)
- EEA nationals without settled status

Forced destitution is inhumane and part of the Hostile Environment

NRPF condition harms and significantly impacts lives:

- Increases poverty, isolation
- Deterioration of physical and mental health
- Leaves people open to dangers...
- Risk of exploitation, forced labour
- Individuals become unseen, unheard, ignored
- Prevents people being able to exercise their rights

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Legal advice is key

- With **accommodation**, **time** and access to the right **legal advice**, the NRPF condition can be lifted and people's status regularised

Legal literacy is key

- Local authorities have powers beyond well-known statutory duties
- Homeless Link and NACCOM report: A roadmap for supporting non-UK nationals facing homelessness
  - "building inclusive and equitable homelessness systems… means looking beyond statutory duties"
- Law Centres Network guidance – Exhaust all Options

The role NACCOM plays…

Support to establish new accommodation projects

Networking opportunities for members to connect, share and collaborate

1:1 member support

Platforms to showcase member challenges and solutions to ending destitution

Toolkits and resources

Research, including our annual members' survey

Prevention of destitution and Access to member services

Through research, policy, campaigning, practice and partnerships we want to prevent people experiencing destitution in the first place. Through policy and practice we want to ensure that barriers to accessing support to end destitution are removed.

People seeking asylum (including initial claim, appeal stage or appeal rights exhausted)

Refugees with leave to remain

EEA nationals without settled status

Other people with NRPF (including people who are undocumented or with unsettled status)

Individually or in partnership, to end destitution **NACCOM members provide**:

- **Safe and good quality temporary accommodation**
- Living essentials
- Practical, social and emotional support that is person-led, flexible and trauma-informed
- Specialist case management and **legal advice and advocacy**
- Employment support where applicable

Gain or regain asylum support and accommodation

- Granted refugee status and leave to remain and supported to settle into the community
- Fresh asylum claim or evidence resubmitted

Does not gain or regain asylum support and accommodation

- Voluntary return to country of origin or another country
- Long period of residence resulting in option to remain

Accesses welfare entitlements and resettlement support

- Settled in the community

Secures settled status

- Permanent residence or indefinite leave to remain

Secures pre-settled status and finds employment

- Temporary leave to remain and access to benefits

Does not secure/want pre-settled status

- Reconnection with country of origin or another country

Secures any type of leave to remain

- Leave to remain/ residence

Reconnects with country of origin or another country

- Reconnection with country of origin or another country

… to prevent and end destitution

Opportunities for people with lived experience to collate and present evidence

Platforms for people with lived experience to share stories and give views with dignity and respect

Advocacy and campaign opportunities

Reports, briefings, updates and consultation responses highlighting impact of and solutions to destitution

With thanks and acknowledgement to Fair Way Scotland for allowing us to use and develop their Gateway model

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

Accommodation models

Broadly categorised as **housing**, **hosting** and **emergency accommodation**

- Cross subsidy model with accommodation leased from housing provider
- Free or peppercorn rent for void properties
- Free or peppercorn rent for 'gifted' properties
- Use of meanwhile premises
- 'Rent-free' bedspaces in local authority-commissioned accommodation
- Local authority provided or funded accommodation for public health purposes
- Accessibility of nomination rights to long-term housing or move on support

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

- The NACCOM network is very diverse!
- No two accommodation projects are the same
- Case studies:
  - **Housing**
  - **Hosting**
  - **Inter-agency coordination**

Housing

hope projects

- Manages 12 houses in Birmingham for people seeking asylum with NRPF
- All properties are rent free and include 3 from churches, 2 privately owned and 6 from 4 different Housing Associations
- A former board member who worked for Bournville Village Trust brokered arrangements with HA's which date back 7+ years
- Various levels of involvement from HA's who generally are responsible for external repairs and maintenance while Hope Projects do internals
- Hope Projects link housing with internal legal advice OISC 2 and 3 leading to intensive case work and move on plans
- 38 people housed over the past year, with 9 positive move on's, including 2 who got refugee status
- https://hope-projects.org.uk

Hosting

London Hosting Project

- Progress in developing hosting in London was slower than other cities, so HJ applied for funding for a Coordinator and set up a hosting project in 2015. The project now has a dedicated Coordinator and Officer.
- All guests must be receiving immigration advice or legal support (including through HJ **partnership with Cardinal Hume Centre**), with a move-on plan. HJ staff are in process of obtaining OISC accreditation.
- Since August 2020:
  - Hosted **43** guests
  - Recruited **17** new hosts
  - **10** people have received LTR including **5** in the last Quarter (April – June 22)
- Currently:
  - **22** guests in **17** host households

Coordinated pathways

- Cross-sector, coordinated solution to end destitution among people seeking sanctuary and settlement

Including:
- Safe in Scotland (NACCOM)
- Refugee Survival trust (NACCOM)
- Scottish Refugee Council

- Scottish Govt
- COSLA

- **Partnership** across the **third**, **academic** and **public** sectors = firmer foundation for investment and broader shoulders for funders to spread risk

- **Learning**: Heriot-Watt University and Joseph Rowntree Foundation helping to draw out learning and influencing

- Working together to ensure people have **accommodation** in the community, **support** (practical/social/emotional), **legal advice**, and **living essentials**…

- … To: Increase legal status; Reduce time spent with no recourse; Raise the safety net; and Design-out destitution among people with NRPF

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

The current state of play

- We expect the number of destitute people with NRPF to rise
  - Nationality and Borders Act
  - Rwanda plan
- High levels of hidden homelessness
  - Referral agencies have reduced face-to-face services
- *Everyone In* led to increased understanding of NRPF homelessness
  - Importance of stable accommodation for move on
  - End of Everyone In = increased destitution
  - RSI increasingly interested in non-UK homelessness & immigration advice
- Brighton (Ncube) ruling opened up conversations on local authorities' powers & duties to support people with NRPF
  - → Law Centres Network guidance – *Exhaust all Options*
- Still, far from enough is being done to meet the need!

NACCOM
THE NO ACCOMMODATION NETWORK

NRPF is a condition that is cruel and inhumane and forms part of the hostile environment – Home Office's NRPF policy has been declared by a High Court judgment unlawful 20th June 2022 – Fifth time.

Joint effort to end enforced destitution - should be part of any homelessness prevention strategy – collectively we can do this.

Resources

- NACCOM toolkits and other resources
- NACCOM's new Hosting Guides
- Homeless Link + NACCOM report: Unlocking the door: A roadmap for supporting non-UK nationals facing homelessness in England

Find out more at

www.naccom.org.uk

or contact

Tom@naccom.org.uk

Follow us on **@NACCOMNetwork**
(Facebook and Twitter)