



Campaign update: Annual Gathering 2019

Bratislava is facing a crisis of homelessness, with an estimated 5,000 people sleeping on the streets and only 300 bed spaces in shelters. There is no legal definition of homelessness in Slovakia and no social housing. This summer members of the European End Street Homelessness Campaign gathered in Bratislava to raise the visibility of the local campaign and gain an understanding of the specific challenges faced in the city. Participants also reflected on the past year, shared experiences, and created unified goals and specific actions for the year ahead. The campaign brings together a network of cities from across Europe with the aim of eradicating street homelessness for good in each of the local communities involved.



“With all of the countries represented here today - working with us to end street homelessness - we are truly not alone and we are not invisible. But we are working on the streets, we are working in the shadows and we need a legal definition in national law. A legal definition would confirm that it is our role as a society to support those who are homeless, vulnerable and excluded to achieve safe and independent lives.”

Pavol Sabela, CEO of OZ STOPA

OZ Prima

OZ Prima provide street outreach and a drop-in centre. They work with people using substances and alcohol, and provide crucial medical interventions for people with HIV and Hepatitis C. Prima is a multidisciplinary team of social workers, psychologists, a lawyer, doctor, nurse, social assistant and volunteers.

Brothers of Mercy House, St. John of God

This shelter provides food, medical and hygiene services in an area with very high levels of street homelessness and informal shelters. They also provide accommodation for elderly people experiencing homelessness and work closely with STOPA on a housing integration programme.

OZ STOPA Slovensko

OZ STOPA provide street outreach work in the city, as well as running an integration centre for homeless people and those at risk of extreme social exclusion and poverty. Their team provides social work consultations, medical support, welfare assistance, crisis intervention, training, skills and employment.

**Key campaign city achievements
2018-2019**

**Key actions and commitments
2019-2020**

Alicante/Valencia
Published Proposals to End Homelessness and met with the Spanish Prime Minister to influence national homelessness initiatives.

Barcelona
Published a guide to all the homelessness services in Barcelona and carried out their fourth annual Connections Week.

Barcelona
Support other communities in Catalonia to deliver Connections Weeks through the development of a support website.

Alicante/Valencia
Carry out research on the rights of people experiencing homelessness for political influencing and training relevant organisations.

Leicester
Secured eight Housing First units and implemented 20 individual plans for people affected by homelessness.

Bratislava
Carried out a Day of Action, 'We are not invisible,' in November 2018, raising awareness of local and national issues.

Bratislava
Carry out a full Connections Week in September 2019, to better understand the needs of people sleeping on the streets.

Leicester
Involve the community in solutions to end homelessness through the Charter Group and prioritise voices of lived experience.

Croydon
Implemented a By-Name List of all chronic rough sleepers and started a Housing First scheme for 20 people.



Croydon
Roll out 'HomelessWise,' an information campaign for local businesses and develop an innovation fund for peer-led outreach.

Glasgow
Started 34 Housing First tenancies in the city by the end of May 2019 under the Housing First Pathfinder programme.

“There are still people that believe homeless people don't have the same rights as everyone else.”
Lucia Stasselova, Vice-Mayor of Bratislava

Glasgow
Upscale Housing First in the city to 315 tenancies by March 2021 and invest in person-centred support services.

Torbay
Started the area's first Housing First service and initiated a Community Housing Project involving local people in housing solutions.

Westminster
Began the Day Centre Development Project, bringing together the three largest day centres in Westminster.

Westminster
Rebrand the Westminster campaign and expand the group to reflect more stakeholders, including health and criminal justice.

Torbay
Secure accommodation for the Housing First service, develop weekly list of rough sleepers and widen alliance to include more services.

Brussels
Published their second Connections Week report in French and English and installed and occupied the first two modular housing units.

Brighton
Partnered with Think Nation to support young people to come up with ideas about how technology can be used to tackle homelessness.

Brighton
Hold a Connections Week in October 2019 to gather current data on people sleeping on the streets and maintain volunteer engagement.

Brussels
Find land to continue to develop a modular housing project and propose holding a European conference with FEANTSA.