



MIGRANTS' ACCESS

TO HOUSING

CONFERENCE

20th June 2017

**Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre
London**

Innisfree

 **arhag**
HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Praxis
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS 

#Fair4Migrants
#Fair4All

Why the first migrants and housing conference?

The last year has been a difficult time for migrants and for housing providers. Housing providers face increasing demands on them to do more with less, while struggling to keep faith with their tenants and to be fair to all. The toxic debate around Brexit and the government commitment to creating a “hostile environment” for some has brought discrimination and sometimes fear into the lives of many migrants. Migrant destitution and homelessness is a growing problem.

We need to find ways to work well in these hard times. So ARHAG and Innisfree housing associations and Praxis Community Projects commissioned MigrationWork to organise a first Migrants’ Access to Housing Conference to explore what we can do. We quickly got the support of major figures in the housing world and London government. Today we find out what we can do and what may come next.



Organisers

Arhag

Arhag was set up in 1979 as a community organisation to support African refugees who were experiencing housing problems. Arhag registered as a housing association in 1988 and started to develop permanent homes in 1989. Arhag still, primarily, house refugees and migrants but now from all countries and continents.

www.arhag.co.uk | [@Arhag](https://twitter.com/Arhag)

Praxis

Praxis is a human rights’ charity that has been supporting migrants and refugees in London for over 30 years. They provide a holistic range of services including specialist immigration advice and casework, housing, group work and advocacy. They build innovative cross-sector partnerships to find sustainable solutions to migrant homelessness and destitution. Their frontline expertise informs their training courses, which support service providers to work more effectively with migrants and refugees.

www.praxis.co.uk | [@Praxis_Projects](https://twitter.com/Praxis_Projects)

Innisfree

Innisfree is a housing association providing high-quality affordable homes, proud of their Irish roots and their experience in working with migrant communities. Established in 1985 to meet the housing and support needs of the Irish communities in London they now own and manage over 550 homes predominately in the London Boroughs of Brent, Camden and Haringey.

www.innisfree.org.uk | [@_InnisfreeHA](https://twitter.com/_InnisfreeHA)

Schedule

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome: Jennette Arnold OBE Chair, London Assembly

10:15 Panel discussion Housing Migrants in Hard Times

Chair Barbara Roche,
Former MP and immigration minister, Chair of Praxis Community Projects

Terrie Alafat CBE, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing:
Setting the Scene; Brexit and housing

David Orr, Chief Executive National Housing Federation:
Housing Associations in the age of migration

Dr Nigel de Noronha, University of Warwick:
Housing, migration, discrimination and disadvantage

11:40 Tea break

12:00 Seminar introductions

Chair Sally Daghlian OBE, Chief Executive Praxis Community Projects

Adrian Berry, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers:
Housing rights for migrants: the legal position

Patrick Duce, Innovation and Good Practice manager, Homeless Link:
Migrants in trouble, helping the destitute

Sue Lukes, Director, MigrationWork:
Migrant customers and how to work with them

12:45 Lunch

13:30-16:30 Seminars and briefings (with coffee breaks)

Housing rights for migrants: the legal position

Adrian Berry, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers:

Migrants in trouble, helping the destitute

Patrick Duce, Homeless Link and **Sally Daghlian OBE**, Praxis Community Projects

Migrant customers and how to work with them

Sue Lukes, Director, MigrationWork CIC:

16:30-17:30 Plenary: bringing it all together: the Migrant Housing Pledge

David Orr, Chief Executive National Housing Federation

Babita Sharma, BBC World News presenter



HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS' PLEDGE TO MIGRANT PEOPLE

As Housing Associations we are proud to be providers of shelter and support to people from all walks of life. But in Britain today migrants face particular challenges and we recognise that we can contribute to meeting the needs of present day migrant people:

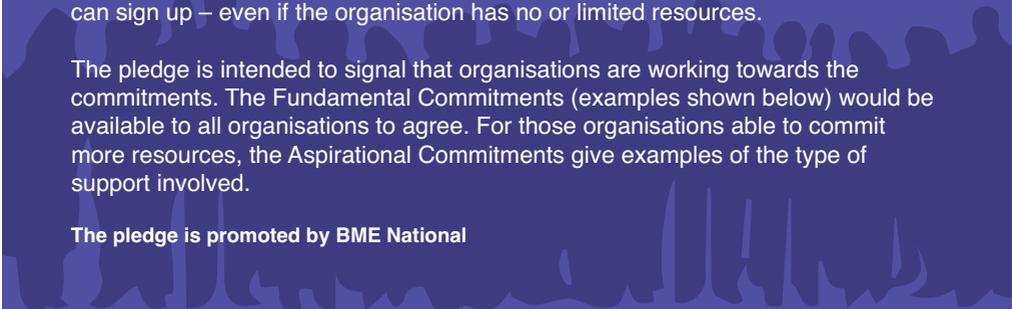
- 1** Provide a safe and welcoming environment to migrants seeking someone they can trust.
.....
- 2** Train our staff and board members so that they are able to be informed advocates for vulnerable migrants.
.....
- 3** Engage with our staff, communities and partners to increase understanding of the issues facing migrants and to break down prejudice.
.....

This pledge is offered to a diverse range of housing organisations, with varying levels of resources, complexity and capacity.

It has been designed so that organisations with the will to support migrant people, can sign up – even if the organisation has no or limited resources.

The pledge is intended to signal that organisations are working towards the commitments. The Fundamental Commitments (examples shown below) would be available to all organisations to agree. For those organisations able to commit more resources, the Aspirational Commitments give examples of the type of support involved.

The pledge is promoted by BME National





HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS' PLEDGE TO MIGRANT PEOPLE

Pledge commitment	Fundamental commitments (for all organisations)	Aspirational commitments (organisations committing more resources)
<p>Provide a safe and welcoming environment to migrants seeking someone they can trust.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Migrants contacting our service feel welcomed● Information on website or publications or at Customer Service points offers a welcome to migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reach out to migrants in the community to offer welcome● Provide temporary or permanent accommodation to migrants
<p>Train our staff and board members so that they are able to be informed advocates for vulnerable migrants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Staff and board members can use the Housing Rights website● Staff and board members have received briefings about the current experiences of migrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Have developed a migrant ambassador in their team, equipped to champion migrants' rights alongside their existing role
<p>Work with our staff, communities and partners to increase understanding of the issues facing migrants and to break down prejudice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Are in dialogue with a migrant community/ organisation to increase understanding of the migrant experience● Offer in kind support (eg meeting room, admin, space in newsletter) to migrant partner organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Regular support given to a migrant partner organisation (e.g. advice surgery in office, staff volunteer time given, help with governance, revenue funding provided)

Speakers



Terrie Alafat CBE

 @TerrieAlafatCIH

Terrie Alafat CBE is Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Housing. She was most recently Director of Housing in the Department for Communities and Local Government, with overall policy responsibility for the supply and management of housing across all tenures, housing growth, and homelessness prevention and support. Terrie was given a CBE in 2013 for services to homeless people. Terrie was Director of Housing and Corporate Strategy in the royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea until she moved to the civil service.



Jeanette Arnold OBE

 @JennetteArnold

Jennette Arnold OBE is a Labour and Co-operative Party politician and member of the London Assembly representing the London Boroughs of Hackney, Islington and Waltham Forest. She became Labour's lead member for children and young people and lead spokesperson for older people. She chaired the Cultural Strategy Group for London, sat on the Assembly's Economic and Social Development Committee and served as a member of the MPA. In 2007 Arnold was listed by New Nation newspaper as one of Britain's 50 most influential black women.



Adrian Berry

 @BerryAdrianC

Adrian Berry is a barrister at Garden Court Chambers and chair of ILPA. He is an adviser FEANTSA, a Brussels based housing rights institute. He acts for migrants across the range of housing and social welfare issues at all levels from the County Court to the European Court of Justice. He advises charities and community organisations on migrant housing rights.



Sally Daghlian OBE

 @Praxis_Projects

Sally Daghlian OBE has 25 years' professional experience in the migration field. Sally is CEO of Praxis Community Projects, a human rights organisation working with migrant communities in London. She was formerly chair of the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and CEO of Scottish Refugee Council. She also researched and co-authored a publication on Race and Housing in Glasgow: the role of housing associations.



Patrick Duce

 @PatrickDuce

Patrick Duce is the Innovation and Good Practice Project Manager at Homeless Link, the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless in England. He leads on the Strategic Alliance on Migrant Destitution (SAMD), a national project bringing together organisations from across the housing, homeless, refugee and migrant sectors to improve accommodation options for destitute migrants. Prior to Homeless Link, Patrick has experience working for St Mungo's, Doctors of the World, Human Rights Watch and Campaign Against Arms Trade.



Sue Lukes

 @SueLukes

Sue Lukes has been working on housing and migration since the 1980s when she started in housing aid. A director of MigrationWork, she now co edits the CIH/ BME national website www.housing-rights.info, trains on eligibility for many local authorities and housing associations, advises local authorities across Europe on how to make migration work better and advises, supports, develops and evaluates projects. She is on the board of ARHAG HA and chairs Music in Detention.



Dr Nigel de Noronha

 @deNoronhaNigel

Nigel joined Sociology at Warwick in 2016 after completing his PhD on the growth of the private rented sector in England at Manchester University. He collaborated with Dr Nissa Finney and Sue Lukes from MigrationWork CIC to co-produce research on housing disadvantage and discrimination experienced by migrants in the UK. Before studying he worked for the Audit Commission on national and local projects around inequality, cohesion and neighbourhoods.



David Orr

 @natfedDavid

David Orr is Chief Executive of the National Housing Federation and a former President of Housing Europe, the European network for Social Housing. He is the Chair of the board of Reall, previously known as Homeless International. He has recently retired from the board of The Housing Finance Corporation (THFC) and as Chair of Building Lives. Previously, David has been Chief Executive of the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations and of Newlon Housing Trust, having also worked with Centrepoint. David was awarded in 2010 an honorary membership of the CIH.



Barbara Roche

Barbara Roche is a former Member of Parliament and Government Minister. In government she served in the DTI, Treasury, Home Office, Cabinet Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. At the Home Office, she was the Minister for Immigration. Since leaving Parliament Barbara has chaired one of the largest housing associations in the country, run leadership and diversity programmes for one of the world's top companies and been a visiting university professor. She currently chairs a number of organisations in the refugee and migration sector including Praxis Community Projects.



Babita Sharma

 @BabitaBBC

Babita Sharma is a Documentarian, TV Presenter, BAME spokesperson and News Anchor for the BBC. Babita has fronted many documentaries and programmes and was named as one of the BBC's 'Talents to Watch' for 2017/2018. For six years, Babita has fronted her own show Newsday on BBC World News, covering major breaking news events around the world. Babita was the presenter for many major global events, including the US elections in Washington where she presented for BBC News and BBC World News.



Seminar 1

Housing rights for migrants: the legal position

This seminar covers the landlord right to rent scheme, eligibility for homelessness assistance, and protection under the Equality Act. It considers the position of migrants who are lawfully present and those unlawfully present. The aim is to equip people with the legal knowledge to advocate for individual migrants and communities on housing rights available in law.

Seminar 2

Migrants in trouble, helping the destitute

Migrant destitution and the provision of housing for vulnerable migrants present unique and complex challenges for housing providers. Destitution is not inevitable however, and as well as learning about the context of migrant destitution within the UK this workshop will focus on looking at current good practice from across the UK. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn about the causes of migrant homelessness, share their experience of supporting destitute migrants, consider models of good practice and cross-sectoral partnerships and identify constructive steps to develop their own commitment to the Migrant Pledge.

This workshop is delivered in partnership by PRAXIS Community Projects, who are actively engaged in tackling migrant homelessness in innovative projects in London combining accommodation and specialist legal advice and the Strategic Alliance on Migrant Destitution (SAMD), a national cross sector project developing pathways out of destitution for vulnerable migrants.

Seminar 3

Migrant customers and how to work with them

Your association already has migrant customers: tenants, buyers, service users. But are you offering them the best service possible? this seminar looks at

- who are your migrant customers?
- why might they need different or extra services?
- which migrant tenants may be at risk (and why) and how to mitigate that risk
- tenancy sustainment and benefits for EU migrants and others
- family arrivals and breakdowns
- working well with migrant customers

This workshop is delivered by Sue Lukes, housing expert and director at MigrationWork CIC.