

Common Statement of Homelessness and Housing Related Aims

From the Irish Homeless Policy Group

General Election 2024

The Irish Homeless Policy Group (IHPG) is made up of a wide number of organisations which work in the sphere of housing and homelessness. Our constituent members include organisations providing direct housing supports, policy work, advocacy, and legal interventions in the sector. The leading voluntary organisations working to end homelessness have come together to set out a number of proposals which they believe should feature in the election campaign and inform the incoming Government.

We believe that homelessness is one of the problems that we actually can solve, and that those who deliver homeless services are best placed to contribute to the solution. We urge political parties and candidates seeking election to the 34th Dail to place our aims, outlined below, at the centre of your platforms and in the next programme for government and to engage collaboratively with those of us who work daily with those experiencing homelessness, to find a solution to the problem.

Our Aims

- **Build enough homes** - Ensure that over 50,000 homes are constructed each year to meet housing need across Irish society, including at least 11,000 new social homes to tackle the housing crisis and address homelessness, in line with the recommendations of the Housing Commission Report. This will meet both current and future need. Ensure that 20% of housing is social and cost rental and build appropriate homes for those who need them such as one bed and two bed units for smaller households, larger homes for families trapped in homelessness and Transfer families.
- **End Long Term Homelessness by 2030** Set the goal of making sure no one is homeless for longer than 6 months by the end of the next Government term (2030), by dedicating 10% of new social housing supply to already long term homeless households. Use the housing commission report as a key driver and policy roadmap.
- **Prevent Homelessness** Prioritise and adequately resource comprehensive prevention and early intervention measures to prevent homelessness from occurring and recurring. This should be part of an integrated approach to address family homelessness with a continued focus on the urgency of increasing the supply of social and cost rental homes.
- **Create rental sector** Implement strategy for the private rental sector to include items such as a deposit protection scheme and a rent register.