

Shed light on the realities of homelessness.

WE won't
rest 

AN INITIATIVE OF



INFORMATION LITERACY



CRITICAL THINKING



ARGUMENT FORMATION



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

HOMELESSNESS + ADVOCACY = IMPACT

Homelessness means not having a reliable place to call home. There are many misconceptions and misunderstandings about homeless people. These stereotypes are damaging, hindering homeless people from getting back on their feet.

Come together with your peers to shed light on the realities of homelessness. Share facts on social media to challenge stereotypes and give homeless people back their identities as individuals.* Then, get in touch with a local shelter or homelessness charity and find out how you can help. Together, we'll show the world that we won't rest until everyone has a place to call home.



FACT: It is estimated that there are more than 320,000 homeless people in the UK.**

*We know that keeping young people safe online is a top priority, so make sure you are familiar with your school's e-safety procedures and guidelines. For younger students, we recommend that your teacher creates a group social media account and manages it on behalf of your group.

**Shelter. 22 November 2018. [england.shelter.org.uk/media/press-releases/articles/320,000-people-in-britain-are-now-homeless-as-numbers-keep-rising](https://www.england.shelter.org.uk/media/press-releases/articles/320,000-people-in-britain-are-now-homeless-as-numbers-keep-rising)

Ways to Take Action

Share facts about homelessness to challenge damaging stereotypes about homeless people.



At School

- Share daily homelessness facts in form time or assemblies to raise awareness throughout your school. Finish your campaign with a quiz!
- Get in touch with a local shelter or homelessness charity and find out what actions you can take to help end homelessness.



At Home

- What do your family think about homeless people? Have a discussion with them and discuss any of their misconceptions.
- Have a family night-in and watch a film or documentary about homelessness. Afterwards, take time to talk about how it made you feel.



As a Community

- Hold a collection at your local community centre to collect clothes and care items for homeless people in your area.
- Launch a poster campaign within your community to help everyone understand what it means to be homeless.



Campaign in Action

Students at St. Cecilia's Primary School in the London Borough of Sutton, are joining forces to help end homelessness!

Organising an after school sleepout, students raised awareness about the realities homeless people face every day.

Challenged to find shelter on their school playground and with teachers acting like members of the public, students also dealt with differing weather conditions, and the difficulty of having hot food and drinks outside. Students now feel more resilient and able to further tackle this growing issue in their community!

Connect With Other Campaigns



*Check out your [Global Social Action Guide](#) for fundraising tips, inspiration and action planning tools.

Share a Smile

For many rough sleepers, the worst thing about being homeless is the isolation and loneliness. If you see someone sleeping on the streets, try sharing a smile or a simple hello. It can make all the difference.

If you are over the age of 16, you can also contact [StreetLink](#) to let them know. A local team will then work to connect the homeless person with appropriate support.

Remember! Your safety comes first. Tell an adult you trust if you are worried about someone you have seen sleeping rough.

Challenge Your Peers

Challenge your fellow change-makers to a fact battle on social media! Take turns to share facts with one another, until you all run out. Who can spread the most knowledge? Remember to use [#WEwontRest](#) when you share.

Get Doing

STEP 1

Investigate and Learn

Before you start taking action, you need to learn more about homelessness so that you're armed with the information to dispel myths and create change!

What do you already know about homelessness? With your group, write down any words or phrases that you associate with homeless people on the mind map below.



CHECKLIST

- Investigate and learn with the [Homelessness issue webpage](#).
- Visit [WE.org/gb/wewontrest](https://www.we.org/gb/wewontrest) for more resources.
- Create an [action plan](#).
- Put up [campaign posters](#).
- Watch and share the [Homelessness issue video](#).
- Share snaps on social media using the [Photo Board](#) and spread the word using [#WEwontRest](#).
- Contact a local shelter or homelessness charity.
- Share your impacts with your WE Schools Programme Manager.
- Plan your [WE DayX](#).

Use the [Homelessness issue webpage](#) to learn more about the causes of homelessness. Could any of the words or phrases you've written above be described as stereotypes? Why? Why not?



Why can stereotypes be damaging? How does raising awareness help to challenge stereotypes?



STEP 2

Action Plan

Set Your Goal

By educating yourself and others about homelessness, you will launch a movement of kindness. Plus, when you connect with a local homeless charity or support organisation, you'll make a real difference to the lives of homeless people in your community.

How many facts will you share on social media? _____

How many people will get involved in raising awareness? _____

Will you support a local homeless charity? If so, which one? How will you support them?

Do you have a volunteering (e.g. hours volunteered) or fundraising (e.g. money raised) goal? What is it?

Assign Roles

There's loads of ways you can help the homeless! How will you raise awareness with the **WE Won't Rest** campaign? In the speech bubbles below, write down as many methods as possible. Then, in the faces, write which group member(s) will be responsible for each task. Remember to match group members' talents and skills to each responsibility.

E.g. Write to your local newspaper					
E.g. Comms Manager					

If you are working with a local homelessness charity or organisation, you'll want to find out how you can best support them. Write down some ways you can help below.

- E.g. Collecting items of clothing or blankets to donate
- _____
- _____
- _____

STEP 3

Take Action

Now that you're an expert on homelessness, it's time to spread awareness throughout your community! By sharing facts and dispelling myths, you'll help to build the understanding of others and break down the stereotypes that hold homeless people back.

Tip: Research homelessness organisations to find case studies you can share across your school.



Don't forget to share your pictures, connections and updates on social media with [#WEwontRest](#).

Reflect

Did your group reach your awareness-raising goal? Did you run into any challenges along the way? If so, how did you solve them?



How have your perceptions of homeless people changed throughout the campaign? How can you keep challenging negative stereotypes in your daily life?



What is one action, other than awareness-raising, that you could take to help end homelessness?



STEP 4

Report and Celebrate

Report

How many people from your school/community got involved in your WE Won't Rest campaign? _____

How did you raise awareness during your campaign? _____

How many posts did you share on social media? _____

If you supported a homelessness charity, which one? _____

Celebrate

Make sure you celebrate and share the success of your campaign, and reward yourselves for all your hard work.

- Share photos of your actions with your school, community and WE Schools Programme Manager.
- Capture the highlights of your event day and create a video or classroom display.
- Celebrate your impacts through a class party, assembly or **WE DayX**.

Thank everyone who supported your campaign!

Use this space to think of fun ways to thank those who participated (e.g. hold an assembly to share the facts you learned and the impact your campaign had).



Photo Board



Share facts about homelessness on social media to help spread awareness! Write your facts clearly on the board below, then take a photo of yourself or your group holding it. Upload it to social media using [#WEwontRest](#), challenge your friends to do the same, and start a chain of awareness. To print more copies, visit [WE.org/gb/wewontrest](#).



Did you know...



Find more facts about homelessness
at [WE.org/gb/wewontrest](#).



[#WEwontRest](#)

Further Online Resources

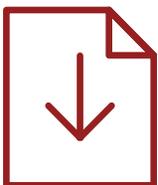
There has been a

169 PER CENT

rise in the number of rough sleepers
in England since 2010.*



WE won't
rest 



[WE.org/gb/wewontrest](https://www.wewontrest.org/gb/wewontrest)

Visit the website for more stats, information, and downloadable posters and infographics to help you make a difference. Plus, don't forget to share these on social media with [#Wewontrest](https://twitter.com/Wewontrest).

*Crisis. The homelessness monitor: England 2018. www.crisis.org.uk/media/238700/homelessness_monitor_england_2018.pdf