



Utrecht's pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

Leave no-one behind. Everybody in the city deserves a shelter. Therefore we sign the pledge to **principle 19 on housing and assistance to homelessness**. Living, not surviving.

Our goal as a Human Rights city with housing as a fundamental Social Right is to let everybody who lives in the city have a shelter and is able to live a normal life.

The City of Utrecht always works together **with citizens** and professional partners for a Healthy Urban Living for Everyone. We developed a new strategy to combat homelessness that aims to:

1. Prevent homelessness, also for young people.
2. Offer 24 hour shelter and professional guidance for those who are homeless.
3. Offer tailor-made assistance.
4. Provide further guidance for former homeless people who found a place to live in our neighbourhoods.

So what do we do?

Quality of shelter & care

We work together with a multidisciplinary team on the **quality of shelter & care** because we aim for a **quick recovery** of homeless people:

- We activate homeless people and look for possibilities to engage them in daily activities and to find a home.
- We provide new shelters which also include single rooms for privacy and peace.
- We provide homeless people shelter 24-hours, which means it is also accessible during the day.
- We work together with experience experts to support homeless people.

Sustainable solutions

We work together with all partners in the city for **sustainable solutions** because we want to **prevent** and resolve homelessness for citizens in a **sustainable** way:

- We take care for homeless people and we work on their informal networks.
- We identify debts in time and offer quick assistance to citizens that have increasing debts, e.g. within two months of not paying rent. The professional and social housing corporations enter into a conversation with the person with debts to prevent more debts and create solutions.
- We develop different forms of assistance for those who found a place to live to prevent repeated homelessness.

Housing First

We cooperate local & national on the **City Deal for an 'Inclusive City'** to create a **Strong inclusive community**:

- Create sufficient social housing and innovative concepts of living.
- Make a connection between the homeless people and a normal life.

And what do we ask?

Solutions on all levels have to be taken. From local to global and back. From our cities to the European Union and back to our cities. Let's do it together. We ask for:

- Multilevel governance with more emphasis on social rights in all policies and on principle 19 on housing and assistance to homelessness.
- Room for innovation in regulation and EU funding possibilities to develop innovative concepts and projects on social and affordable housing.
- Less complex (inter)national laws and regulations on housing and social policy.
- Policy & funding to let EU cities and regions work together on migration and related homelessness issues.

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#SocialRights #Cities4Europe