



In their words

**THE
HUMANS
OF THE
HOUSING
CRISIS**





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The following was compiled from submissions received over six days from Tuesday 3rd December. Edits have been made to protect identities. This is a small snapshot of the hundreds of submissions received via email and Facebook. It has not been possible to publish every submission received, however this document will be updated in the coming period.

Just after 10pm Tuesday 3rd of December Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and a small group of independents came together to block a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Housing.

The motion was tabled on the back of a growing crisis.

That same night the news broke that over 10,500 people were homeless, including over 4,000 children.

Every morning we wake to news of sky-high rents, of dire housing conditions, of people spending decades on council waiting lists and living in their parents' box rooms.

An entire generation who will never own their own home.

That is the basis on which that motion was tabled that week in December, just over two weeks before Christmas.

The fact that Fianna Fáil sat on their hands that night; that Fine Gael in their arrogance claim that their plan is working; that grubby deals were done to save the government's bacon made me so angry that I decided to put out a call.

I uploaded a video to my Facebook page asking for people to tell their story of the housing crisis.

Nothing could prepare me for the response I received.

The suffering, the hurt, the despair that is felt by people the length and breadth of the state is staggering.

I received hundreds of messages. And no two were the same.

There are so many aspects to this crisis. There are so many stories – what binds them is despair. Thousands of people forgotten by those in power.

I have responded to as many of these messages as I can and I am truly grateful to everyone who has told their story. Their bravery and their strength shines through in every testimonial.

Their stories deserve to be told. Their voices must be heard.

That is why I am publishing this document.

I want the government to see what they are doing and I want them to change.

There are solutions to this crisis – a rent freeze, a large-scale public housing build programme, legislation to clip the wings of vulture funds to name a few. People do not have to suffer. All that is needed is the political will to make a change.

People are struggling. Now is the time to stand up for them and make a difference.

Is mise

Mary Lou McDonald TD



I am a mother of three. We have been living in a one bedroom B&B accommodation for 16 months.

This is our second Christmas here.

My son has autism. His behaviour is challenging. He hits, kicks and spits.

We have breakfast in the morning here in the B&B. But I can't bring him to the dining room for breakfast because of his behaviour. We all sit on the floor in the bedroom to eat.

We have no access to the kitchen so we eat take away.

I have two children aged one and a half and two and a half. I have been homeless for the past 13 months.

I am currently living in a family hub. Before we went there they put us into a hotel. The conditions there were shocking.

They gave me a dirt-riddled cot for my eight month old. There was a broken socket that they had covered with cellotape.

Myself and both my children are finding it extremely difficult living in the family hub being confined to such a small space. I don't feel my children are meeting all of their needs fully and neither am I as an adult.

Since living in the hub I have only been to two viewings as it is extremely hard to try and find rented accommodation.

There is constantly sickness in the hub so I find it hard to let my children outside to play. I am a single mother and I cannot afford for both my children to be sick.

We have to share communal washing machines that are very hard to get use of most times.

I have had staff walk into my room while I was only out of a shower. I have had staff enter my room on two occasions while I wasn't there which I feel is a major invasion of privacy.

Myself and my children have witnessed violence in the communal area. This is another reason why I refuse to let them outside of our room as they are way too young to be witnessing this sort of behaviour.

I am humiliated to tell people where I live and I don't feel as though I am part of a normal society.

I have had to go to counselling sessions and have been prescribed anti-depressants by my doctor to help me deal with living in the family hub. It is making me extremely depressed especially coming up to Christmas.

This is my second year having to ask family members if I can stay with them for Christmas just to make it feel somewhat normal for my children. That alone as a mother is humiliating for me, that I can't provide a safe warm home for us.

When I ask my son where do we live he says "in the room".

That is heart-breaking for me to hear those words.

I hope my story reaches you as I am sure there are many people in my position who want to get their story heard. If so I am thanking you for reading this and I hope my story gets to the Dáil as we need to be heard and listened to.



I'm a retired soldier with five adults and my grandson living in my house. My daughter has been on the housing list in since my grandson was born in 2004 and still no offer of accommodation.

My daughter, her husband and two children are in a hotel room, which is better than nothing but it has only one bed in it for all four of them to sleep in.

They certainly don't get any breakfast, no cooking or laundry facilities and both children are asthmatic

Was in another place and had to be out by new years. Was given a place for six months and still here six years later.

Damp all over it, walls falling in and two sick kids with damp in their room.

10 people living in a three bedroom house . Joke big time.

My niece is living in a hub. She was a year in a hotel with a one and two year old. Then back to a hotel with a new born baby. Five people in a hotel room, now in a hub with three small babies in one room again.

My son has been waiting on a council house for ten years. He has two kids and could be homeless any day now as the landlord is selling the property

I'm 42 and have one son. My name has been on the housing list since I was 18 years old.

In 2012 the council told me they couldn't find my records and made me start the points system all over again.

I'm still awaiting a place I can call my own

I was 12 years on the list and living in a damp, mouldy, cold house.



I'm living at home because I'm newly disabled and I've had to apply for disability allowance twice.

I've had to go private and spend all my savings to get the help I need. And now in a few months when my family move I don't know where I'm going to live.

I've been in homeless accommodation for five years. I'm in a night shelter which opens at 6.30pm. I have to leave at 10am.

I have nowhere to go. We have no family.

I walk around doing nothing all day waiting to go back in at 6.30 pm.

I have been looking for HAP and never get any luck. I've been to viewings and never get called back.

My mental health is terrible. I suffer from anxiety and depression.

I was 29 when I became homeless. I'm nearly 34 now. I have no life.

This will be my fifth Christmas stuck in a little room, no Christmas trees, no nothing. Just waking up to still being homeless and then starting another year with no place to call home.

A dog would be treated better

My friends can't get a house. One has four children and has been on the waiting list for ten years. The other has two children, one with special needs.

One of the worst things I found is that because of the housing shortage, you can't complain about the accommodation you have. There is nowhere to go if things go wrong and the greedy landlords have you trapped and can get away with anything.

I lived in a bedsit and the water tank in the house started overflowing and pouring into my bedsit apartment. It poured down the walls, flooded the carpet and bed. The landlords came to fix it after two weeks because they were on holiday. When they stopped the water overflow they left the bedsit apartment with all the water damage and black mould to grow up the walls.

In my house there is myself and husband, my 23 year old son, my daughter and her two children and my other daughter, her husband and their three children - twins of 13 months and her new baby of one month. All in a four bed house, that's eleven people living in a house with four bedrooms and five of them are little children.



I'm on the housing list since 2016. I have been calling them and emailing them twice a week. Me, my partner and our two year old daughter are living in a cramped one bedroom apartment paying €1,350 per month.

I am 38 years of age and have worked all my adult life. I am a teacher but have had to leave Ireland over crippling rent prices, where I have had to share with people in order to afford to pay my rent. Not the worst situation to be in maybe but if we look at the bigger picture Ireland provides me with no opportunity to get on the housing ladder due to cost and being a single person.

I understand that people are in much worse predicaments than me and believe there needs to be a transparent, fair, and true needs-based system where housing should be affordable and a working aspiration for people, and where rents are also affordable and allow all people to have an average standard of living. With this we need to also provide for the most vulnerable in our society. It is not a difficult concept to understand nor enforce.

The whole structure must change. If homeless charities can build homes and refurbish derelict houses to be fit for purpose at a fraction of the cost of developers properties and social housing provided by the government, then something doesn't add up. The exploitation of human need must be stopped.

I also believe that there are some people taking advantage of the homeless tag to scream the loudest and push genuine cases to the back of the queue. This also must be monitored so there is fairness for those most in need and also so the middle earners are again not stretched to pay for mis-management and exploitation.

Can we please be part of a fair system for all, and stop the greed and profit making that is having detrimental consequences, not only for the most vulnerable cases, but for the majority of the population outside elitist rings and those exploiting the system to oust the most in need further into the periphery of society.

If politicians are not up to the job at hand step down and at the very least know you have not contributed to failing those most in need.

Lived in Cork for six years. Every year of tenancy my rent was raised. Never was given more than a year contract at any location. Final rent was €1.2k for a small wet basement apartment. Landlords evict without warning.



I'm a father. I pay €110 a week rent for an absolute kip - no washing machine etc.
I take it because it's better than sleeping on the street
I struggle to afford food.
I have three kids and I'm a single father without work.

Hi, im a student and until recently was living in a converted shed in the back of the landlord's house.

I was cramped in there with two others. Rent is €500 and he only takes cash.
When I gave in my month's notice he forced me out immediately and took my deposit.

I moved into a shared accommodation where there were seven men living in an old house built in the 1970s. It was damp, mouldy and rat-infested and basically all I could afford whilst working 40+ hours a week and fairly paying my taxes.
I would hear people fighting and drinking at 6.30am some mornings whilst having to get to work to keep myself afloat.

My girlfriend was there also. Every day we had to wait to use the toilet and kitchen, feeling uncomfortable everyday as we both finished work and had to wait for each other so that she wouldn't be in that house alone. We would then have the smell of dampness off our clothes due to not having access to the washing machine/dryer very often, feeling like the lowest level in society while both working full time.

We were depressed because of the way we were forced to live by the raising rents in Dublin.

We both decided to look for a way out of the cold damp small room we were mentally decaying in and went looking for a place to rent finding nothing less than €1,200 per month. We searched for two months to privately rent and applied for over 150 properties in which we viewed only two places.

We have now finally got our own place which is absolutely beautiful and our struggle has made us grateful for something as small as watching television on a couch and not in a bed and not being woke up to the sound of fighting and drunkenness.

It's impossible to rent or buy a house in Cork City. I'm stuck in a rut.



My husband and I had to part with our home. My husband was in construction, he was a qualified block layer. Start mortgages put us under so much pressure with our repayments that we almost broke, but with the luck of God we managed to sell and pay them back every penny.

We are so lucky compared to others, but when we approached the council to put our names on the housing list they said we couldn't because we had walked away with a tiny profit, which we needed to rent for 6 months.

We are in our late fifties and renting. We can't get a mortgage, we can't go on the housing list. Every night I worry that we will eventually be homeless.

My three children are grown up, the last is doing her leaving cert, how can we move forward?

I feel for the people and children in B&Bs, and would 100% put their needs before our own. We worked our whole lives, I've worked since I was 16, how have we ended up in this situation? I just despair.

Im currently studying in DIT in the centre of Dublin which doesn't have any accommodation for students so I had to go private.

I'm in private accommodation paying near to €10,000 for nine months of the year. I don't even have a washing machine in my apartment. I'm in my final year of college and want to stay in Dublin in the coming years but feel completely pushed out.

It's basically impossible to get a start in Dublin. I'm expected to pay €800-€1,000 per month for a house that isn't run-down or cold.

I'm a serving soldier. I was living with the mother of my child and her two children from a previous relationship.

At the start of the New Year the landlord said he was selling up before Christmas and we had to be out. We struggled to find somewhere the best I could find for 3 kids was €2,500 a month.

We were told by a politician that as long as I was in the picture we would have absolutely no hope of getting anywhere, so I moved into emergency accommodation. Then when that got too much with room inspection and poor standards I moved home.

My partner is now in emergency accommodation. Only for that she would have nothing. We have a place for Christmas. Well she has. I have to stay away.

With my job I have to work away a lot so that's extremely hard as well.

Just to finish my partner has been on the list for a house for eleven years.



I'm on the housing list for twelve years. Divorced now, three kids. I'm on disability.

I have three children and no home. Only my car and two friends houses where I bring my children.

I have been on the housing list now for six years. I have been going to my local housing authority all this time with no luck, all I'm getting is "we have nothing for you".

I'm living in my father's house in the box room. I'm here now four years. I cannot afford the inflated prices for a house or flat.

Every time I go out to my local housing authority they treat me like a fool, making me feel like shit.

So I have given up. There's no point.

Hi there I'm a married mum of three children of which two have special needs.

My husband is a prison officer and because of his wages we can get nothing as he's over the bracket for the rent to buy scheme.

I was in receipt of carers allowance and I had a review during the year. They have since cut my carers and left me with nothing.

I'm so stressed and upset. We can barely get by as we have rent to pay and my youngest daughter is having home tuition as she will not go to school due to her sensory issues. We have to pay for this as well as private therapy.

I'm at breaking point. They just dont care.

We got turned down for a mortgage and the council cannot help us.

Please I need your help.

I have been on the waiting list for over ten years now.

I have three kids, two with asthma, one who is awaiting an assessment from 2017.

My partner has health issues.

My sister is also waiting with two children who both have anxiety and depression. She also has a house on HAP which has old stone walls and oil heating. She is finding it hard to cope with the heating bill. They just sit in the cold.

I dont have any family that could take us all in.

I would love to have somewhere permanent for my children to make it our home forever.



I am on the housing list almost eight years. I'm living in HAP accommodation at the moment.

I have three small kids. My husband and I have been in and out of work with depression. We came very close to being homeless four years ago while I was pregnant with my middle child. Our landlord decided to sell his house and we couldn't find anywhere else to rent.

We found somewhere at the last minute and we have been here ever since but last year the landlord told us he wanted to sell. It fell through. So we are still here but I feel on edge. They could change their mind at any moment and we could be in the same situation again.

Visit the Clayton hotel on the airport roundabout and watch all the parents with their children queuing up for their breakfast in a cordoned off area of the hotel.

At dinner time too. Very sad.

A close friend of mine bought a car with no tax, NCT or insurance just so he can sleep in it instead of sleeping on the streets.

The police took the car from him. Little did they know it was the only place he could feel safe at night to sleep with some bit of heat.

The homeless hostels are a joke with people taking heroin and other drugs in the same room.

He's afraid he will end up on hard drugs too.

I have a 36 year old back living at home with a baby who will never be able to buy a home unless we win the lottery.

I have a daughter nearly 50 years of age with two children who is living in rented accommodation and doesn't know the day or the hour when the landlord will sell up and then she's homeless.

I know we're not homeless. We have a roof over our head and for that we are truly grateful.

There's myself, my husband and my five kids living in a two bed flat. It is damp-riddled, doesn't matter what we do with it. We continue to have frequent floods.

My self and hubby share a room with the two youngest while my three older girls squash into a box room.



I am 17 years on the list. Worked all my life. I'll soon be homeless as I've been diagnosed with cancer and I won't be able to afford my rent.

I am currently living with my partner's parents. Four years now in an attic with our 11 year old son.

We decided to take this step as the rent was absolutely spine-breaking.

We both have really good jobs. We have been trying to attain a mortgage for the last four years with no success.

Although it breaks our hearts that we are in this situation we are also grateful as many other fellow Irish citizens are in a much worse situation.

There needs to be change with the rent systems in this country and a more REALISTIC figure for average couples making a decent wage for a mortgage. I know some people may consider us not "homeless" but in my eyes we are. Because we don't own our home. Instead we live in someone's attic.

I've been on the housing list for over nine years. My husband has a severe mental illness.

I work but it's hard to keep up. Our rent keeps going up. I pay through the bank and I also have to send cash to keep the roof over our heads.

I never move on the list.

I'm 50 now. If I get sick or anything happens to me my husband will be homeless. He wouldn't be able for emergency accommodation with his illness.

I have given up.

I've been refused a transfer twice. Currently living in what is nothing short of a bedsit.

My kids are freezing cold every night in damp mouldy conditions.

My youngest son has breathing problems and has had several chest problems in the last few wks. He shares with his brother who is currently waiting to be assessed privately for we think autism/ADHD. We can't go public - the waiting list is too long. It's costing €425 euro two weeks from Christmas.

My front door is six feet from the main road and my kids are at risk every day.

I'm a middle income earner and can only fantasise these days about a normal stable home and safe environment for my kids.

I am living in a studio flat. I have been living here since 2018. The rent is €1,375 monthly. I do get help with HAP.

I am very grateful to have a place to call home. I count myself lucky.

Christmas 2017 I was living with friends after my house went up for sale.



I got told I was going to be homeless in the new year. So I went down to the council. I got help to sort out HAP and such. I ended up living in homeless accommodation but in January I didn't even realise what was yet to come.

Going from goal post to lamp post trying find hostels and calling that free-phone number.

I used to call Starbucks my sitting room cause I really had nowhere to go.

I used to be on hold waiting nearly 40 mins calling free phone and panicking in case I miss a bed for the night.

I lost so much weight from that stressful time. I'm only getting back to myself two years later.

Hi I saw your post from the Dáil and it has given me hope for the first time in months.

I'm homeless after the breakdown of an abusive relationship. The rent is astronomical and I'm on disability allowance.

I get places to stay a couple nights a week only now because my friends are on social welfare and terrified to give me more than one night on a couch in case they get reported as me living there.

I'm currently renting. My partner and I have two children, a 12 year old girl and two year old boy.

Although we are renting a three bedroom house we can only use two bedrooms as there is a gas boiler in one.

The house is also absolutely destroyed in mould and live spores which we are breathing in.

It is completely damp and cold and impossible to heat, I did visit the local council who sent someone out to build a plaster board wall over the worse area of mould, basically to hide the problem visibly.

Now the council tell me they can force the landlord to improve the conditions but this only brings more fear of losing our home as I don't think he is willing to invest in that way.

I feel he might prefer to tell us he's selling the house and anyway it doesn't solve the issue of my son needing his own bedroom to develop and grow.

I know that the boiler will not be moved.

My family and I are living in a hub. There's eight of us in a two bedroom hub. Six kids ageing from 12 years to 11 months Three girls and three boys.

We have been here for the last year and prior to this we were living in a private rental flat for six years.



Hi I saw your post on Facebook. I'm 30 and live in my parent's overcrowded family house.

I am sharing a room with my little girl who is six and my 18 month old twin boys. Their father lives at his mother's house. We cannot afford to rent a house.

Myself and my partner both work. I work part time for the last 16 years and he works full time.

We have been into the council on numerous occasions. The room in which I live in is full of damp and my kids are constantly sick. I have provided pictures to them.

We are getting nowhere.

My daughter is wetting the bed from anxiety due to sharing a room with her brothers and mother.

My two brothers and sister share the house too. To say the house is stressful would be an understatement.

My daughter wants to know why we cant be like any other family and all live together.

I should have been the quintessential success story, I have a degree and a masters. I worked my little ass off throughout my time in education in order to build a brighter future for myself and break through the socio-economic barriers my family have always struggled to overcome.

I honestly thought I had been working hard enough, yet I have lived in my fiancé's family home for the past 3 years. Before that we lived with my own very gracious parents for over a year, unemployed and utterly bereft of any hope of leading our own lives independently in our own household. Our own home, maybe even start thinking about having our own children. One can dream I suppose.

We face the choice of renting and living well below any reasonable quality of life, or staying with my fiancé's parents indefinitely and watch the housing situation get worse!

We feel a hunger for own independence, the beginnings of our own family circle more than anything in this world. That is turning into a pit of despair. I want to be able to snuggle up beside the love of my life in my own sitting room, in front of my own fire, having a gin and tonic and having a chat about our day. It would be more than a dream come true if we could do so without my fiance's parents peering over their glasses at us.

I turn 30 years old next Tuesday, Mary Lou, I don't think that is an awful lot to ask for anyone. Is this not something we all deserve? This situation has to end. The levels of depression and anxiety we are being driven to, and the growing bitterness that is drowning between the generations could not be more toxic to our beautiful island. If you can do something, DO IT! Enough of the bullshit spin, we need action and we need results. We need our own bloody house!!!



I live with my grandad. He owns his house and I look after him when I am not working.

I work Monday to Friday with some extra side jobs to save money.

I am living in fear that when he dies I know I will be homeless. I'm saving as much as I can but I know that isn't going to be enough.

I don't know where I can go, where I can afford? I don't earn enough to get a house on my own. I don't earn enough to rent and run a car; my insurance is €2,600 a year because I am under 25.

I am incredibly fearful of my future for when my grandad passes as I have nowhere to go. I can't afford €2,000 a month rent as I only earn €1,800 a month.

I can't afford to go to college to get a degree to get a job to earn more money as I am not given the grant as I work full time. I also work late shifts so I wouldn't even be able to attend an evening course. My parents are gone so I can't turn to them. I'm truly scared every single day because I know I might face the reality of couch surfing or sleeping in my car.

I had to move home to my parent's house with my daughter.

We live in a small room and we only have one bed for the two of us.

I'm an engineer. I was living in a three bedroom apartment with eight other people.

Three people per bedroom. Then the landlord kicked us out with only two weeks notice.

Nine people with only two weeks notice to find somewhere to live. And we were paying €500 per month each in cash.

Myself, wife and three kids have been on the housing list for over a decade.

Both myself and my wife work. We have a son with special needs. However although the government recognise he has special needs and provide domiciliary care and a SNA, they do not deem this to be a priority for housing.

We have pleaded for many years now.

We commute because the rents are too high.

The commute is long and we have no support where we are.

We are in an impossible situation. We will never own a house as we can't save much with paying high rent.

It's a depressing situation but thankfully we have not faced homelessness yet. But there is a chance that our landlord will sell next year. So in 2020, a family of five who work could be homeless. Eoghan Murphy has failed us.



I have one child and for the past three years I have been living in my family's two bed council apartment because I cannot afford to buy alone.

I have good savings but still cannot afford a home. I feel our government will not support me.

I live in a two bedroom flat with my wife and five kids.

My daughter has autism and regularly has meltdowns. We have no space to give her on her own.

The council don't recognise autism for medical priority. We sent in all the reports but were refused.

She has been to counselling as when she was younger she told us she was going to hang herself. She has sensory problems.

Most nights I sleep on the sofa to let her stay in my bed with her mum if she has a meltdown.

Hi my landlord wants to sell her house and myself, husband and my two small kids have to be out by February.

We have nowhere to go. I am on the housing list over 13 years.

Myself, my wife and our four kids live in a 2 bed maisonette. We've been here for eight years.

My housing story: Eight grand saved for deposit. Paying €600 month rent for five years in one house.

Been paying rent, on time in other houses for ten years.

Found a house for my partner and little girl. Mortgage would have been €213 a month. Denied because I'm self-employed and do my own taxes. Taxes accepted by the government but not by central bank.

€213 per month mortgage = can't afford it says central bank.

€600 rent every month = no problem. Go figure!



I found myself homeless last year. I have two children. My eldest has ADHD and my youngest has kidney problems. I'm on invalidity as I am also ill.

I got us out of homelessness after five months but I didn't get a house. I'm on the council list.

We were blessed as we got a hotel with managers who made us feel so welcome.

I'm scared we are going to be forgotten about. Buying a house is not an option for me. And paying rent is a huge no no. How could I afford the rent they charge these days without the assistance of HAP.

Although we were homeless for a very short time it has had a shocking effect on our lives.

My children are terrified we are going to be living on the streets.

They go to therapy which I pay for privately as the waiting lists are mad. They can't process their schoolwork. They are constantly worried that we will be homeless again no matter how many times I reassure them.

In truth I'm lying to them because we can be thrown out of the house at any time. We don't have security.

What do I do if the landlord decides to sell this house or look for more money? I'm already on a stretch. I couldn't bear the look on my kid's faces. It would kill me, never mind the effect it would have on their lives.

I have been on the housing list for thirteen years and still no sign of getting a home. I am renting at the moment, getting help.

I know that I am lucky in a way because I have a roof over my head but all my family wants is a forever home.

We are always stressed that the place we're in will be sold. It happened to us once before.

My daughter and her son have applied for housing/HAP with the county council and have been refused twice as she is living with myself and my wife.

At present we are trying to downsize due to my wife's illness. This has been explained on the application and appeal forms to the council without success. It's like you need to be on the streets before they'll take notice.

I'm in my late 20s and my partner and I cannot afford to stay in Dublin.

We envisage never being able to buy a house here and feel emigration is our only option job-wise. We don't want to leave but see no option. As a Dubliner, it kills me to see the heart of this city is gone.



The house is dangerous. I've tolerated so much from this landlord. We had no heating for over 12 months because he got an unregistered installer to fit a boiler.

I had a gaping hole in the roof for over 18 months that's now 'fixed' with plywood and sealant. He doesn't care and when I complain he says it's an old house and he can't be pumping money into it.

If we didn't have my mother, we would be living in our car. And even if we were in the fortunate position of being able to afford to rent, we aren't going to find anywhere with wheelchair access.

I am finding it hard to get a job, now I have to find a home also. The situation is impossible and leaves me very few options. I don't want to live off benefits or the HAP scheme. I cannot believe at this time in my life I am beginning to think I could end up in a homeless hub.

I am 32 years old and have zero prospect of being able to save to buy a house or apartment. Right now I am considering moving back to Cork from Dublin just so I can fulfil the basic need to own a home - I am not asking for lavish surroundings but simply a small space I can call my own in a non-isolated and safe area.

Words can't describe how useless I felt. Nothing was in my control. I felt like, and still feel like, a failure that I couldn't pay for or provide a roof over my daughter's head and it was left up to my family to do so. I'm grateful they did this for me. They shouldn't have had to.

Work decided to close office and offered us to relocate to the main office. I had 3 months to find a place so I started calling and applying online, I was driving long distances every weekend and sometimes during week days to view accommodation. It was a terrible time, I was begging for a home but since my wife doesn't work (she stays home with our young son) and that we are on the HAP scheme, no one accepted.

My daughter has lived in private accommodation for 16 years. Different places with five children and had to move yet again to a HAP house. This was very upsetting for the two children with autism. They have no garden. It's a disgrace that a couple with five kids married is still living from house to house each time a landlord wants to sell up. Not even one offer of a Council house in 16 years.



My story is basically I have been homeless about a year now. I had been in hospital for a while as I broke my legs soon after I found myself on the streets as I had no money or job. I have been to the council to ask for somewhere. I'm not looking for a house, apartment, flat, a bedsit would do me, just somewhere I can close the door at night and sleep.

They put me and my newborn baby into a hotel where basically I just kept my head down and tried not to be noticed. I will never forget my baby's first Christmas there. It broke my heart into a million pieces, but I just tried to make the most of it for my precious baby girl.

For quite some time I have harboured a wish to return home to Ireland upon the completion of this qualification, however, I have grave concerns over my ability to do so, given the housing crisis.

Despite the fact that I will have a good profession, I fear that having to enter the rental market (as I cannot possibly purchase straight away) will result in far too much of my hard-earned salary going towards lining the pockets of the landlord class in Ireland.

This may in turn make it difficult for me to actually ever buy my own home (and Eoghan Murphy's co-living is a disgusting throwback to the tenements of 19th and early 20th century Dublin).

Housing has been an issue my entire life under Fianna Fáil and Fine Gael governments. It is exhausting feeling nothing but hopelessness for the future.

I am a full-time student in my final year. I'm from a working-class family and I am the only one in my family to receive a third level education, yet also the only one, to be still living at home with my parents in my twenties.

I love my studies, my part-time job is good to pay off my student loans, but it's ridiculous how I have to now consider emigrating to elsewhere in the EU to not only get a more affordable education for my masters, but to get affordable housing for students who barely earn 20k a year.

I am living with cancer. I am homeless and I am not receiving help from the Council. I am HAP qualified, but landlords do not wish to deal with it.



I live in rented in accommodation under the HAP scheme. I have just been served with notice from my landlord that I have to vacate the property next July 2020 and in their arrogance, they will not even give me a legal reason as to why I have to leave.

My wife and I are currently paying €2,100 a month to live in a two bedroom apartment with another 4% rent increase on the way in February. We have all but given up hope of ever owning a house in or around Dublin. All we are looking for now is a level of rent which is affordable.

I have spent 10 years studying and teaching the future generations of this country, only to be continuously let down by our current government when it comes to housing, health, and education systems.

I've been on the transfer list for over five years as this house has steps in the front and back making me house-bound.

I can't close the door to the bathroom when showering or going to the toilet. An OT has assessed me and stated that this house is unsuitable, and I am at risk in it, but I cannot get a response to my housing situation from the council apart from "they are aware and will contact me when a house becomes available".

I am currently house sharing but have been looking for my own place since July. I have done viewing after viewing but have not been successful for anything. I have to be out of where I live on the 31st. So much for a happy new year.

I hold a good job but cannot keep up with the rent increases.

I now have no option but to move back home even though there's really no room for me.

I am currently living in a RAS house for the last seven years. I was taken off the housing list once I signed up to the scheme, but nobody told me that or I would never have signed up.



I'm a 28 year old professional. I absolutely have next to no savings because it's impossible to save. I have several friends in the same boat and we feel forgotten. Where's our help? I can't save for a mortgage.

Homelessness is a crisis, but the renting situation is also a crisis.

We are all so tired. I'm working long hours and have to come home to a small rented room with a couple. It's so draining, and I'm fed up.

I've been a prisoner in this house for the last five years. The rents just get higher and higher and because I'm self-employed, not earning a lot it's currently impossible to apply for a mortgage.

I'm not considered homeless because I'm in my parents' house, but I am.

We both have decent jobs with good incomes. If the economy functioned the way it should we would be on our way to owning a nice home, building up savings and maybe even considering having children in the future. But no.

The above is sadly not the case. We rent a tiny studio apartment. We pay just over €1,000 for the privilege of tripping over each other and fighting over space.

We have tried to find a larger place but almost everywhere is either in poor condition or utterly unaffordable.

Due to the high rents and high cost of living in this city we live pay check to pay check with little or no savings. Saving for a mortgage is simply not possible for us and our insecure housing situation has forced us to put our lives on hold.





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