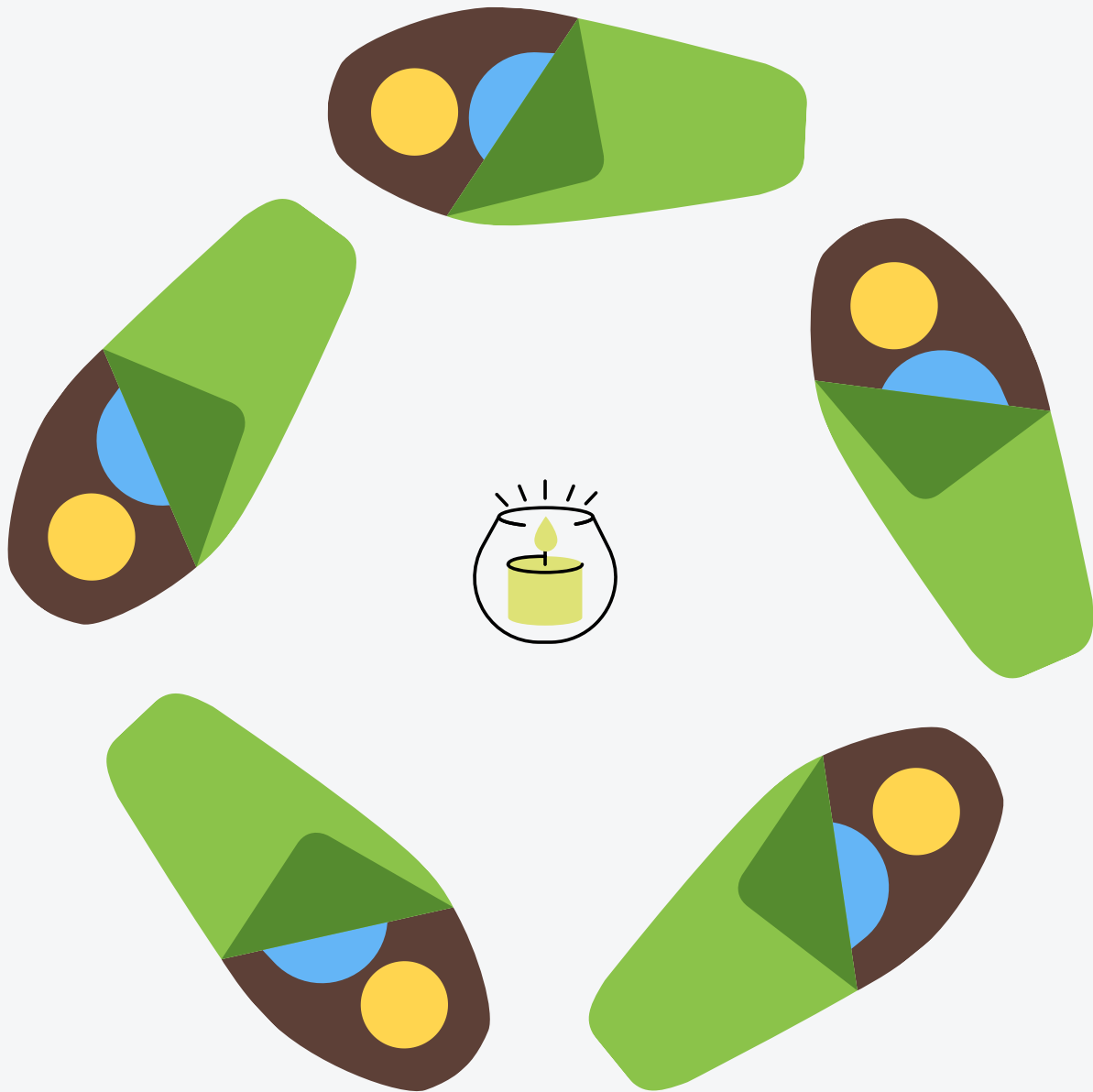
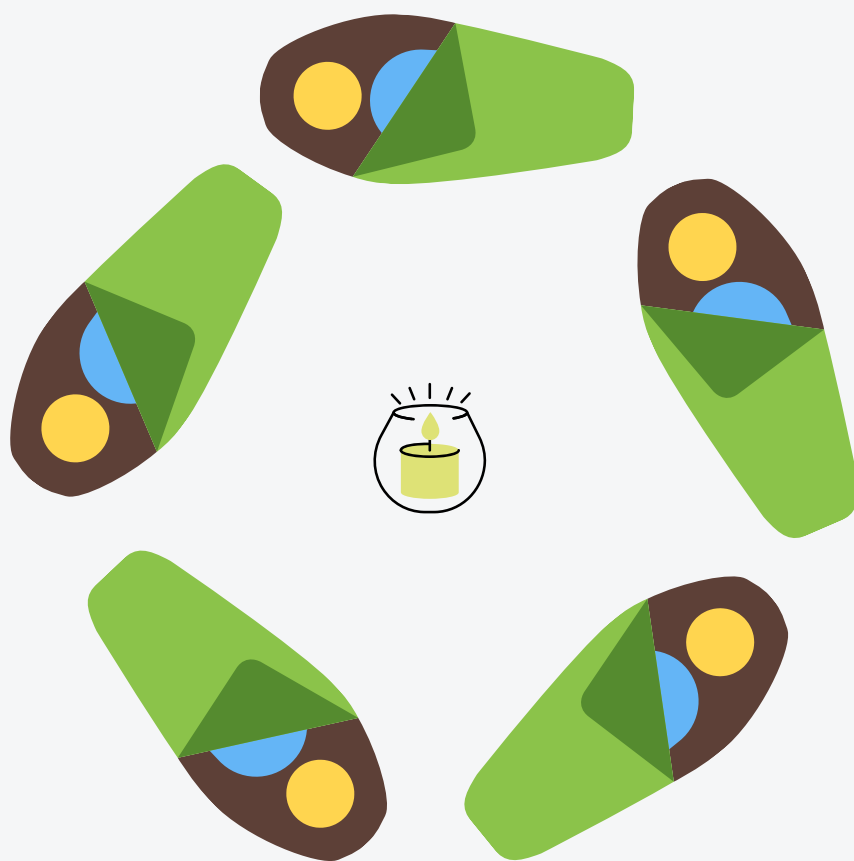


Say no to NRPF Sleep out info



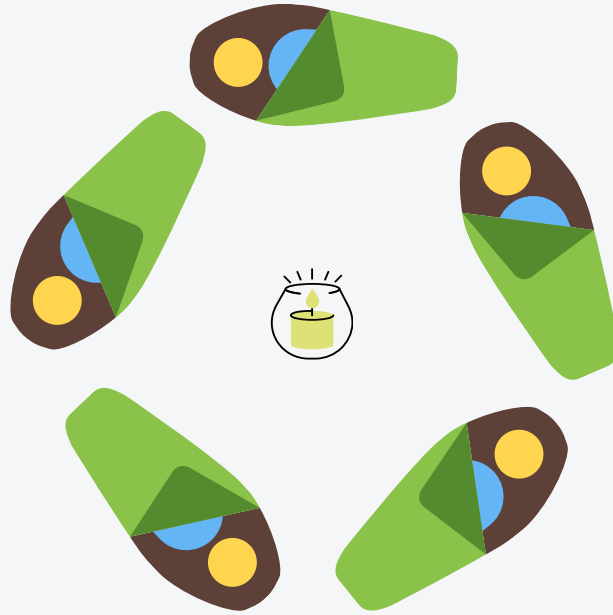
Thanks for your interest
please read before attending

Say no to
No Recourse To Public Funds
Sleep out vigil
Friday 9th October
central London



www.tinyurl.com/saynotoNRPF

Say no to NRPF



What can I do?

Join the vigil on the 9th of October

all you need to know you'll find here
www.tinyurl.com/saynotoNRPF

Write to your MP and Councillors

and show your concerns
www.writetothem.com shows you how

Visit NRPF Network

set up to offer support and guidance. Visit their page to learn more about how you can help
www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk

Many amazing charities already work tirelessly supporting people with NRPF, an internet search will help you find them and donate; do please also though consider doing the above to support a movement saying "No" to No Recourse To Public Funds .

Some background

No Recourse to public funds was introduced in 1999-

Quoting the Home Office document on NRPF:

'No Recourse To Public Funds'

(NRPF) is a standard condition applied to those in the UK with a temporary immigration status in order to protect public funds. Most migrants visiting, studying, working or joining family in the UK are subject to an NRPF condition until they have obtained indefinite leave to remain. Migrants here without leave are also subject to NRPF, by virtue of their being in the UK without status.

Opinion/ press

‘People will die’: Priti Patel warned immigration policy will force thousands back on the streets

Local councils call for ‘urgent action’ to ensure homeless migrants — some of whom have lived and worked in UK for decades — are not pushed back into destitution because of their immigration status

Independent 07 July 2020

The cruelty of Britain's ‘no recourse to public funds’ immigration policy

Whether this is the cause of Mercy Baguma’s death or not, she should never have been forced into extreme poverty because of her immigration status, say women campaigning to end NRPF

Maya Goodfellow, Shaista Aziz, Sandhya Sharma, Chitra Nagarajan, Lola Okolosie and Elizabeth Jimenez Yanez

A collective of women campaigning to end NRPF

Guardian 27 August 2020

Opinion/ press

THE UK Government's "no recourse to public funds" (NRPF) policy is "inhumane" and the main barrier to ending homelessness, Scotland's housing minister Kevin Stewart has said. Some immigrants to the UK are denied financial help under the laws, which were relaxed during the Covid-19 crisis. However Stewart told a meeting of the Scottish Parliament's Local Government Committee that the UK Government is intent on reapplying the NRPF rules.

The National (Scotland) 14 August 2020

Poverty and destitution. That's the reality for thousands of migrants in the UK since the pandemic started. As lockdown hit, migrants across the nation who often work in casual and low-paid roles saw their jobs disappear or incomes slashed. But unlike the rest of the country, they have no welfare safety net to fall back on, because a controversial immigration policy known as No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) means they cannot access benefits.

BBC 18 August 2020

The action

My name is Joe Holtaway, I have been working with people seeking asylum in South London for about a year, we garden and sing together at a Day Centre there. I first became aware of 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) as I learned about what it means to have it on your immigration status through clients at the centre: *you can stay in the UK but will receive no benefits from the Government.*

Moved by the articles cited above, particularly in the Independent about those leaving temporary Covid accomodation with no support and the Guardian - regarding the saddening news of Mercy Baguma's death in Glasgow, I'm aware now that around 1.4 million people are affected by No Recourse To Public Funds, and, as i'm sure won't be a surprise, it disproportionately affects the BAME community. It seems for many destitution is close at hand and councils are saying they are struggling to support people under the current government funding arrangements.

To raise awareness I am organising a peaceful protest vigil action asking people to come and spend a night (socially distanced) 'homeless' on Whitehall in sleeping bags with signs.

The action

The purpose of the action is to bring the affects of NRPF to the door of Downing Street, making visable, bodies sleeping on the streets.

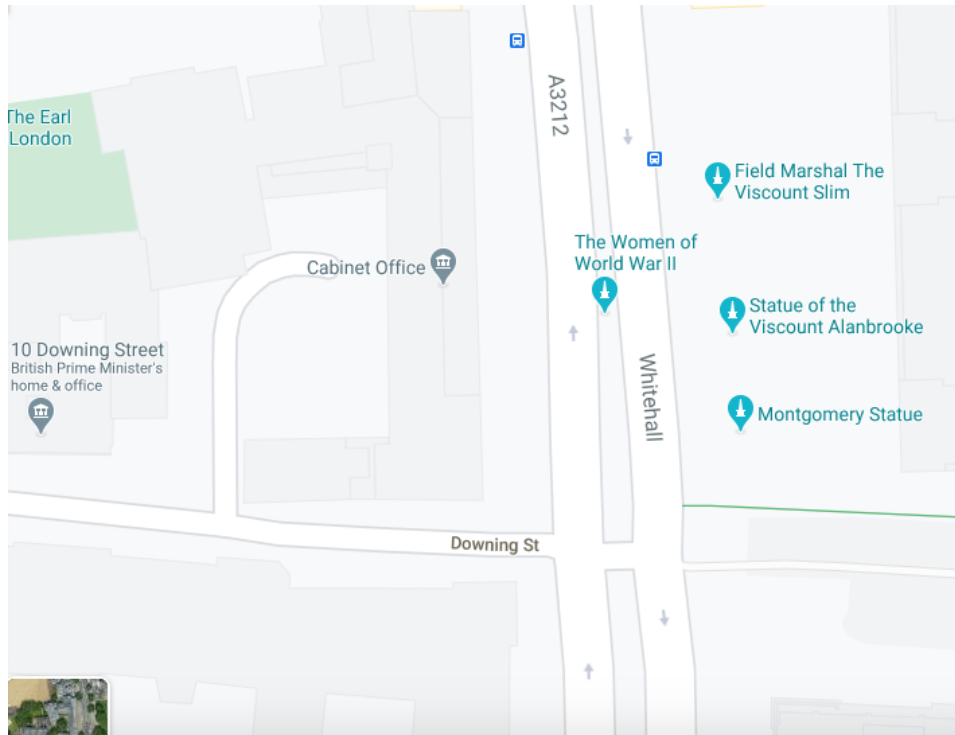
I want to see an immediate safety-net for anyone becoming destitute with no need to apply and gather evidence to prove their case, a process that can take many days.

A same-day provision must be provided to support those with nothing if they are to maintain their health, well-being and dignity.

I believe the measure of a country's heart is how it treats the most vulnerable people living there and in the months and years to come with the possibility of more lockdowns, ask the Government to reform this policy with immediacy.

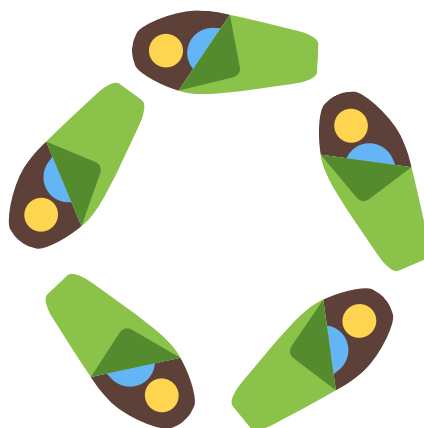
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The action logistics

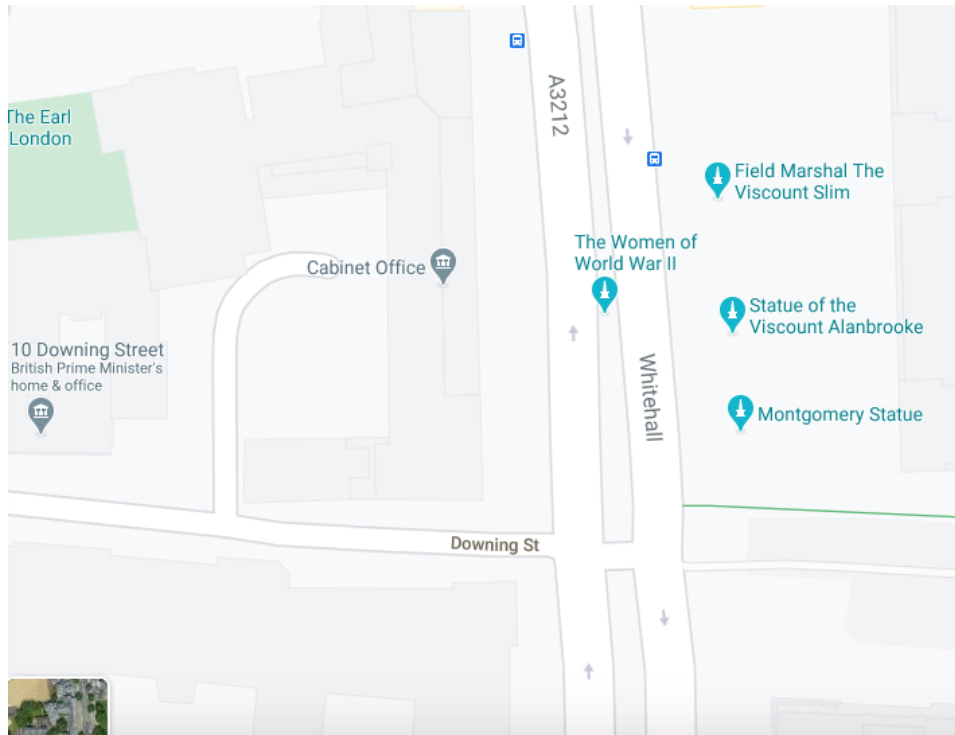


Event will be from 8pm on Friday October 9th to 9am the next morning.

We will be laying off the pavement outside Downing Street (possibly on both sides) in suggested circles of 5 as shown here so keeping 2m distance. Single sleepers also encouraged if 2m distance is kept from others.



The action logistics



On the opposite side from Downing Street opposite the Women of War memorial is a walkway set back from the main pavement - this feels the safest place to start. Sleeping on the main pavement is also encouraged if you can keep 2m distance between yourself and others, allowing people to pass by safely.



The action logistics

Supporters are of course welcome to attend and not sleep. Those that do decide to sleep out please do what you need to stay as warm as possible, bring warm clothes, consider a matt, thermals. No tents please. And please make and bring signs in solidarity with those affected by NRPF.

We will not gather for a welcome meeting as such to observe social distancing guidelines.

So when you arrive please have your sleeping bags visible and wear a mask, then find a place to settle for the night.

If rain is forecast we may re schedule.

While I hope we can do this, please be aware that at the time of writing further restrictions and another lockdown are possible - please check again at the event page for updates.

Police

Protests and gatherings are accepted at the time of writing provided appropriate measures have been taken inline with the 'Covid-19 Secure in 2020' guidelines and a risk assessment has been undertaken (see next page in this document)

There is always a police presence on Whitehall and police questioning is inevitable.

Information will be printed and available for the police to read and so no explanation will be necessary from anyone.

If you are asked any questions you can politely say 'no comment'.

If the police decide to arrest they must tell us why and allow people to leave if they want to.

We will (hopefully) have some stewards in hi vis-jackets there at the beginning to point to info/talk to the police and passers by about what we are doing.

Risk Assessment

In accordance with the government advice on gatherings here is a risk assessment on the event and advice on staying safe while protesting. Please check event pages again to see if the guidelines have changed before the event.

Here is the basic advice (see Gov guidelines link below for more details)

It is critical that everybody observes the following key behaviours:

HANDS - Wash your hands regularly and for 20 seconds.

FACE - Wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet.

SPACE - Stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings or increasing ventilation indoors).

Please read:

[Risk Assessment for Sleep Out](#)

[Gov guidelines affective from September 22nd 2020 about social distanced gatherings](#)