



# Rough sleeper removals: factsheet for homeless people

On December 14th 2017 the High Court ruled unlawful the Home Office's policy of detaining and administratively removing EEA nationals who sleep rough.

## What does the High Court decision mean?

The Home Office is not allowed to deport people from the EEA just for being homeless. Homeless charities are not allowed to help the Home Office to find people to deport.

## If I have been detained for rough sleeping, will I be released automatically?

You should be released immediately. If you have not been released contact: **NELMA** (email: [nelondonmigrantaction@gmail.com](mailto:nelondonmigrantaction@gmail.com), phone: 07459 642 152) or **Bail for Immigration Detainees** (email: [enquiries@biduk.org](mailto:enquiries@biduk.org), phone: 020 7456 9750 – open 10am to 12pm Monday-Thursday) immediately.

## If I have been served a removal notice, will this be cancelled?

Removal notices should be cancelled automatically. However, you should contact the Home Office to make sure that they have cancelled the removal notice. You should insist that they provide confirmation in writing. You can do this by writing to [complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or writing to the address listed at the top of the removal notice you were given.

## Do I still have to report to the Home Office?

The Home Office should cancel any reporting requirements. If they have not cancelled your reporting requirements, you can contact the Home Office complaints department at [complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

## **I am appealing against a removal notice for rough sleeping. Will my appeal hearing go ahead?**

Your appeal hearing will still go ahead. You should refer the Home Office and the Tribunal to the decision in R (on the application of Gureckis, Cielecki, and Perlinski) v Secretary of State for the Home Department.

## **The Home Office confiscated my passport. What should I do?**

You should contact the Home Office and ask for your passport back. You will need to send a letter asking for the return of your documents to [complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk).

## **Could I get compensation?**

If you have been detained, or if the Home Office confiscated your passport, then you might be able to get compensation. You should speak to a lawyer. You might want to contact:

- Public Interest Law Unit at Lambeth Law Centre (0207 840 2000)
- Lupins (020 3503 0880)
- Deighton Pierce Glynn (020 7407 0007)
- Wilsons (020 8808 7535)
- Bindmans LLP (020 7833 4433)

## **I am a EU citizen who sleeps rough. Do I still have to worry about immigration?**

You do not have to cooperate with Immigration Enforcement Officers. If you are stopped, politely refuse to answer questions and walk away. You do not have to show any identification or answer any questions. You cannot be arrested only because you refused to answer questions or did not show your identification.

If you are stopped, report this to Anti-Raids Network: email: [antiraids@riseup.net](mailto:antiraids@riseup.net), twitter: [@antiraids](https://twitter.com/antiraids)