

Homelessness in Developed Countries

— Dame Louise Casey —

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Homelessness is a complex issue,
sitting at the intersection of:

- Public Health
- Housing Affordability
- Domestic Violence
- Mental Illness
- Substance Misuse
- Urbanization
- Racial and Gender
Discrimination
- Unemployment

In order to effectively address homelessness, we must define it.

A person lacks adequate housing if any of three domains are violated:

- Security – legal title, ability to pay rent, etc.
 - Physical – durability, protection, etc.
 - Human– social, family life, safety, etc.
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People without accommodation

1A People sleeping in the streets or in other open spaces (such as parks, railway embankments, under bridges, on pavement, on river banks, in forests, etc.)

1B People sleeping in public roofed spaces or buildings not intended for human habitation (such as bus and railway stations, taxi ranks, derelict buildings, public buildings, etc.)

1C People sleeping in their cars, rickshaws, open fishing boats and other forms of transport

1D 'Pavement dwellers' - individuals or households who live on the street in a regular spot, usually with some form of makeshift cover

People living in temporary or crisis accommodation

2A People staying in night shelters (where occupants have to renegotiate their accommodation nightly)

2B People living in homeless hostels and other types of temporary accommodation for homeless people (where occupants have a designated bed or room)

2C Women and children living in refuges for those fleeing domestic violence

2D People living in camps provided for 'internally displaced people' i.e. those who have fled their homes as a result of armed conflict, natural or human-made disasters, human rights violations, development projects, etc. but have not crossed international borders

2E People living in camps or reception centres/temporary accommodation for asylum seekers,

People living in severely inadequate and insecure accommodation

3A People sharing with friends and relatives on a temporary basis

3B People living under threat of violence

3C People living in cheap hotels, bed and breakfasts and similar

3D People squatting in conventional housing

3E People living in conventional housing that is unfit for human habitation

3F People living in trailers, caravans and tents

3G People living in extremely overcrowded conditions

3H People living in non-conventional buildings and temporary structures, including those living in slums/informal settlements

In order to tackle it globally we need to define it

And count it across all nations

MEASUREMENT – NUMBERS

The Bathtub

Switch off the taps:
prevent homelessness.
Stop the reasons why
people become homeless.

**Deal with the immediate
problem:** the overflowing
water and on the floor.
Deal with those on the
streets and stuck in a
system.

**Make sure it flows away
properly:** sort the
homelessness system out
long term.



Effective Principles



Strong leadership
at all levels



Focus on the
most vulnerable



Effective and
assertive outreach



Address **inflow** as well
as **outflow**



Count and/ or
measure
homelessness based
on definition.
Information is vital



A strong **lobbying**
and **advocacy**
strategy