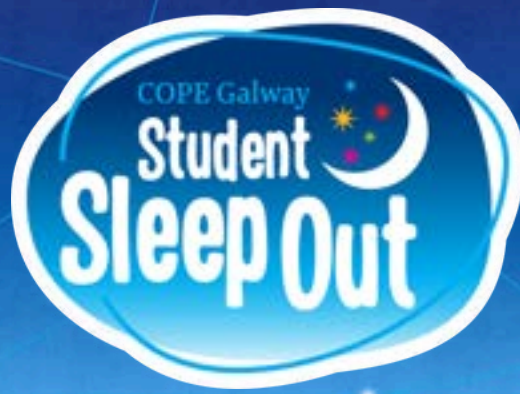


# ACTIVITIES

## Discussion Prompts:

- What do you think the word homelessness means?
- Is having a roof over your head the same thing as having a home?
- What factors may contribute to someone experiencing homelessness?
- How may homelessness affect different groups of people:
  - Students
  - Older people
  - Families
  - People with disabilities
  - Refugees
- Do you think housing is a basic human right?
- Imagine you had to leave your home with only a backpack, what would you take with you?
- Imagine you and three others are getting ready to go to school in the morning in the one room with the one bathroom, where do you anticipate challenges with getting ready?





# ACTIVITIES

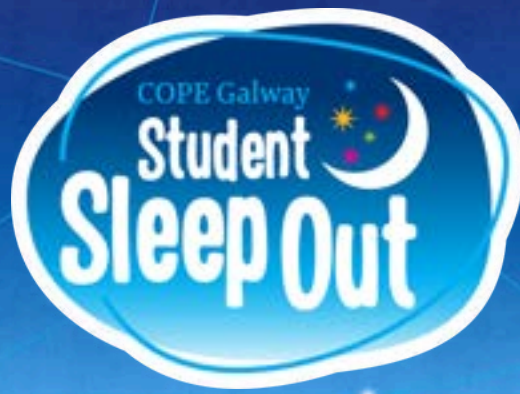
## Facts:

- "Crises in housing, homelessness and extreme poverty are violating economic, social and cultural rights in Ireland" "The State must move away from viewing rights as charitable, discretionary and commodities, and progress a rights-based model" - the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC). (1)
- "4 in 10 residents in direct provision centres inspected last year had refugee status or permission to remain in Ireland but could not move out due to lack of alternative accommodation." (2)
- The housing crisis is an economic, social, and human crisis. The lack of decent, affordable and secure housing is hampering economic growth and development. It's damaging communities, forcing thousands of men, women and children into homelessness, often leaving young people with little choice but to emigrate or to remain living in cramped conditions with relations - Threshold. (3)

1. RTE (2024) "State violates rights by 'failure' to address homelessness, poverty - IHREC", RTE, 7 Feb, available <https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2024/0207/1430884-human-rights/> [accessed 25 Sept 2025].
2. O'Regan, E. (2025) "Four in 10 direct provision residents had asylum granted but could not move out due to accommodation shortage, Hiqa report finds", Irish Independent, 6 Mar, available <https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/four-in-10-direct-provision-residents-had-asylum-granted-but-could-not-move-out-due-to-accommodation-shortage-hiqa-report-finds/a357687034.html> [accessed 25 Sept 2025].
3. Threshold, n.d, The Right to Housing, Threshold Preventing Homelessness, available: <https://threshold.ie/advocacy-campaign/right-to-housing/>, [accessed 25 Sept 2025].



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# ACTIVITIES

## Facts:

- "Housing is a right, not a commodity" - United Nations, Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

"Increasingly viewed as a commodity, housing is most importantly a human right. Under international law, to be adequately housed means having secure tenure—not having to worry about being evicted or having your home or lands taken away. It means living somewhere that is in keeping with your culture, and having access to appropriate services, schools, and employment."

"Climate change, natural disasters and armed conflict pose a threat to the enjoyment of the right to adequate housing and displace every year millions."

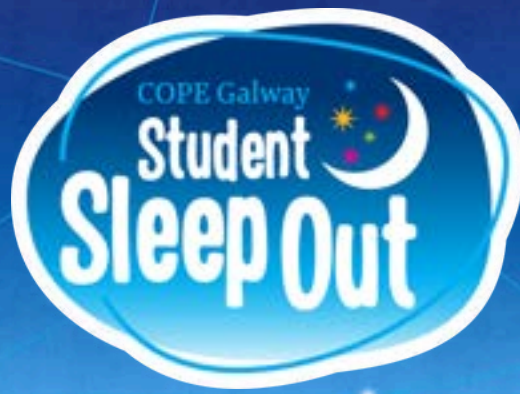
"In many countries women, religious and ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees face discrimination in relation to housing or live in the most appalling conditions. Spatial segregation excludes many residents from equal access to public services, education, transportation and other opportunities."

"Adequate housing must provide more than four walls and a roof. A number of conditions must be met before particular forms of shelter can be considered to constitute "adequate housing." These elements are just as fundamental as the basic supply and availability of housing. For housing to be adequate, it must, at a minimum, meet the following criteria: security of tenure, availability of services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, location and cultural adequacy."

OHCHR (n.d) The Right to Adequate Housing, Fact Sheet 21. rev 1., Switzerland, United Nations, available: [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21\\_rev\\_1\\_Housing\\_en.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf) [accessed 01 Oct 2025].



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# ACTIVITIES

## Activity:

- Pull 5-10 people from the group (depending on group size). Ask the group to walk around the room in different directions greeting one another with eye contact, a hello and a smile as they pass. Instruct the group NOT to make eye contact or greet the 5-10 people who had been selected. At the end of a few minutes, ask the selected few how this made them feel. The purpose of this activity is to understand what those experiencing who are sleeping rough report, people are reluctant to make eye contact with them.
- Ask your group of students to break up into groups of three. Two people are tasked with acting as the roof of a house, creating a shelter by joining their hands overhead. The third person must crouch under their arms. Once people are settled, the instructor (you) must shout one of the following: fire, floods, storm, eviction, rent rise. The two people tasked with creating the roof must collapse their arms and the individual must run and try to find another pair of people who will rebuild theirs. The third individual cannot return to a pair they were previously sheltering under. After this task is complete, ask the students for their impression/feelings.

