

LIBERTY

PROTECTING CIVIL LIBERTIES
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

Summary of substantive policy discussions at Liberty Council meeting July 2017

Status of EU Nationals in the UK and Rough Sleepers

The EU Law and Policy Specialist introduced a discussion regarding the future of EU citizenship in the UK, explaining Liberty's earlier advocacy work on the topic and the current EU and UK positions on citizenship after the latest round of Brexit negotiations.

The meeting engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the status of EU nationals in the UK and provided information on some of the current issues that Liberty has publicly raised, such as family reunification rights and the exportation of child benefits. It was noted that Liberty would continue to comment on issues related to citizenship as and when appropriate.

The EU Law and Policy Specialist introduced a discussion on the paper presented to Council on the removal of EEA nationals for sleeping rough by the Home Office. He explained that the Advocacy team was preparing a complaint to the European Commission, and working on putting pressure on the Home Office to stop this practice.

Council endorsed that work on rough sleepers should be billed as a 'hostile environment' issue. Council members suggested caution in how the complaint is framed in order to avoid potential political backlashes.

There was broad consensus that the complaint should be explained as one of a number of avenues that were being pursued by Liberty to stop the Home Office practice; whether it was European or not was not important.