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**Westminster Hall Debate on Asylum Accommodation Contracts:**

**Case studies of those living in asylum accommodation, and the experiences of support organisations**

On [Wednesday 10th October](https://calendar.parliament.uk/calendar/Commons/All/2018/10/10/Daily) 2018, there will be a Westminster Hall Debate on the Asylum Accommodation Contracts, secured by Alex Cunningham MP, Stockton North. While only MPs are permitted to speak during the debate, we are keen to ensure that the debate reflects the experiences and hopes of people seeking asylum and the organisations who support them across the UK in what may be one of only a few chances for Parliament to consider the contracts prior to them being signed.

We are looking to share examples and case studies illustrating asylum accommodation issues with MPs who will be attending the debate, to help bring the issues to life. MPs will be receiving background briefings on the key issues with asylum accommodation under the COMPASS contracts, together with information about the forthcoming contracts that are due to replace these in September 2019 - and we hope to provide examples that illustrate these and indicate what hopes for change there are across the country.

We are interested to receive written information. Below are some prompting questions, but any responses would be gratefully received (details of who to send this to are included at the end of the doc).

**From people seeking sanctuary who are in asylum accommodation:**

* What do you think is important for the Government to think about when planning housing for asylum seekers in the UK?
* How does your housing make you feel?
* Would you like to share your experiences of any of the following:
	+ Housing conditions
	+ Bedroom sharing
	+ Large-scale HMOs /mother and baby HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupancy)
	+ Frequent or disruptive relocations (where the housing provider told you to move)
	+ Whether the accommodation was appropriate to your needs, including any additional requirements you have
	+ Safety or feeling unsafe
	+ Treatment by staff

(Please detail any actions you took, length of time and the impact on you/your family.)

* Looking to the future, what changes would you welcome?
* What would it mean if there is no or little change for the next 10 years?

***It is helpful to include some background information about the person to bring the case study to life, but we recognise some details may be sensitive and care should be taken not to include information that may identify people who do not wish to be identified publicly. Suggested background info includes: what country the person is from, where they live (postcode or ward would be helpful but you can just name the town or city), and how long they have been in their accommodation, and how long they have been waiting for a decision on their case****.*

**From support organisations and advocates:**

* What do you feel is important for the government to think about when planning housing for asylum seekers in the UK?
* Volunteers and staff may wish to describe individual cases. In addition to the details noted above, it would be helpful to include:
	+ What actions you took, what happened as a result, how long it took you to remedy the situation and the impact on the person? What concerned you and why?
	+ Without your involvement/intervention would the outcome have been different?
* Looking to the future, what changes would you welcome? What would you hope for?
* Are you aware that the Government are working on new contracts for asylum accommodation? Are you aware of the content of the new contracts? If no, how do you feel you could have been consulted or involved in the contract re-design process? What do you believe will be the likely impact of the new contracts?
* What would it mean if there is no or little change for the next 10 years?

***Please also give some context about your organisation. It would be helpful to know how many asylum seekers you support and how commonly you deal with accommodation-related issues.***

**Please send responses by email to Katie at** **katie@asylummatters.org** **by 5pm Wednesday 3rd October.** As mentioned, you need not respond to each question, and responses need not be particularly formal - a short paragraph about a particular issue is fine!

**Other actions you can take**

**We also encourage you to write directly to your MP to encourage their attendance at the debate, offering to share your experiences. We have a template email available on our website** [**here**](https://asylummatters.org/2018/09/27/debate-on-asylum-accommodation-contracts/)**, along with our briefing.** If your MP cannot attend, we may share your response with another interested MP.