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VOTE FARAH
LONDON
MAYOR OF LONDON
2021

Free Hygiene Centres For The Homeless

Mayoral candidate Farah London has committed to setting up hygiene centres for homeless people across the capital. The facilities will be kitted out with showers, toilets, and free sanitary products like toothpaste, deodorant, and tampons and access to GP and dental care. Ms London is confident the centres will enable those living on the street to access the amenities most people take for granted.

The former businesswoman wants to build on the work of charities like ShowerBox, who provide free and secure washing space for London's homeless community. Drawing on the resources of City Hall, Ms London hopes to create similar places of refuge in the boroughs most impacted by rough sleeping.

"According to the latest official data, in December 2020 there were an estimated 700 rough sleepers on a typical night in London. In 2019, there were a total of 170,068 homeless people in the capital either staying with friends and family, squatting, or living in a hostel, night shelter or Bed and Breakfast."

Ms London – *"People living on the street deserve to feel good about themselves. By giving homeless people access to hygiene centres across London, we could dramatically improve their mental and physical health. This can help to give people the self-esteem, confidence and motivation needed to try and turn their lives around."*

Once set up, Ms London is will mobilise an army of volunteers to generate awareness, ensuring the capital's homeless know where they can access these services. Since launching her campaign in October, the businesswoman has travelled all over London to ask rough sleepers how their lives could be improved.

"Although many people's priority is finding accommodation, there is an acceptance that this can't happen instantly, and as a society, we therefore have to work out how we can enhance their well-being in the meantime. Having access to a warm shower is a good start." – Ms London

BRING LONDON BACK

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As the next mayor, Ms London plans to expand the hygiene centres' offering, beginning with the distribution of vouchers redeemable for haircuts. By forming partnerships with barbershops, she hopes the scheme will extend a small luxury to rough sleepers in the capital.

The mayoral candidate is also planning to create a 'Support Taskforce' mandated with helping rough sleepers access public services. Ms London is concerned that at present, a large number of homeless people are locked out of government support due to a lack of documentation.

Ms London said – *"Thousands of people find themselves without shelter or accommodation in London. Many of them cannot access advice or support and have fallen through the cracks. The taskforce will reach out to this forgotten community and help them acquire relevant documentation and secure suitable living arrangements."*

Ms London said: *"This will be important for women who are particularly vulnerable and often subject to abuse as well as those with more chronic mental health issues. It is time that we treat the homeless with dignity and offer them the vital services we all take for granted."*

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