

News from Claude Moraes MEP

Labour MEP for London

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ENDING STREET HOMESLESSNESS

On 21 April, the European Parliament will formally adopt a Written Declaration on Ending Street Homelessness in Strasbourg which Claude Moraes MEP co-authored.

The Declaration calls for Member States to comprehensively address the problem of homelessness by providing 'adequate and sustainable housing solutions for people experiencing extreme poverty'. It calls on the European Council to agree to an EU-wide commitment to end street poverty by 2015. The declaration was launched by Jenny Edwards of the UK umbrella charity on homelessness, 'Homelesslink' who operate nationwide.

Speaking when the Declaration was passed, **Claude Moraes MEP, Labour MEP for London** said,

"Street homelessness is a serious and growing problem across the EU and particularly in London. In 2007 London had over 2000 people sleeping rough on its streets many with severe health and welfare needs. That's why I along with many European colleagues called on the EU and Member States to provide annual updates on progress towards ending this unnecessary and inhuman situation"

"In London there is intense pressure on housing of all types but particularly social housing. That's why with assistance from the EU we can help meet the Mayor's target of 50% of all new developments being 'affordable' for ordinary Londoners."

"I call on the EU to develop a coherent strategy to help assist the Mayor of London's Office, London Boroughs and other local authorities across the EU to get people off the streets and into good, affordable accommodation"

"With free movement of people across the European Union this has become of increasing concern on the streets of London with many new arrivals from new member states arriving in London with little money or knowledge on how to access emergency housing services leaving them vulnerable to exploitation"/**ENDS**

For further information please contact Claude Moraes MEP on 00 44 (0)7973 185 936

Notes for Editors:

1. Claude Moraes MEP is a Labour MEP for London. He is London's first Black or Asian MEP and a former CRE Commissioner and Director of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants. He is also President of the European Parliament Intergroup (a cross-party group of MEPs) on Anti-Racism and Diversity.
2. The Declaration will be formally presented in full session of the European Parliament the week beginning 21st of April and is all-party and has been signed by over 50% of European Parliamentarians representing a diverse range of political opinion.
3. The Declaration was co-authored by Mary Lou McDonald (Ireland, EUL) Jacek Protasiewicz (Poland, EPP), **Claude Moraes (United Kingdom, PES)**, Gérard Onesta (France, Green) and Jean Marie Beaupuy (France, ALDE)

Labour Member of the European Parliament for London

