

PFG PRIORITIES:

# ACCOMMODATION AND HOUSING

## > Recommendations

We recommend actions to:

- develop safe, shared communities based on equality, dignity and respect;
- ensure that everyone has access to a safe, secure home and enjoys the right to independent living, including for people with disabilities and older people;
- address the housing needs of particular equality groups, such as Irish Travellers, and minority ethnic communities (including migrant workers and refugees).

## > Inequalities in accommodation and housing

The Commission recommends actions designed to develop safe, shared communities based on equality, dignity and respect. Shared communities should include shared housing, as well as shared education, and shopping and facilities, such as leisure facilities.

There is a need to eradicate prejudicial attitudes and stereotypes in order to create communities that are safe for all, removing discrimination, prejudice and hate crime.

Further, there is a need to ensure that everyone has access to a safe, secure home and enjoys the right to independent living, including for people with disabilities and older people.

We also recommend actions to address the needs of particular equality groups, such as Irish Travellers, minority ethnic communities (including migrant workers and refugees), who experience insecurity of tenure and overcrowding, and poorer conditions.

Read more: [www.equalityni.org/Communities](http://www.equalityni.org/Communities)





Research, [Housing and Communities' Inequalities in Northern Ireland](#)<sup>4</sup> (2015), has identified, for example, that access to quality transit and settled sites for Irish Travellers is limited, with some experiencing a lack of basic amenities; people with a learning disability are not always afforded an opportunity to live independently; people with disabilities of all ages experience barriers to obtaining housing adaptations that meet their disability- related needs; and older people are more likely than other age groups to live in poor housing conditions.

It also highlighted concerns as regards migrant workers in tied accommodation, where conditions often poor and overcrowded.

Further, we recommend that community planning mechanisms, including the implementation of community plans by local councils, should ensure that equality and good relations are mainstreamed in public policy.

*Older people are more likely to live in non-decent homes.*

[ECNI draft Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities 2016](#)<sup>5</sup>.

4 Wallace A (June 2015), [Housing and Communities' Inequalities in Northern Ireland](#) commissioned by Equality Commission.

5 Households with an older reference person, those aged 60 years old or older, are more likely to live in non-decent home. See ECNI (2016), draft [Statement on Key Inequalities in Housing and Communities](#).

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