

Recommended resources for education on 'Experiencing Homelessness'

1. Going Beyond

Homeless link practice podcast <https://homeless.org.uk/knowledge-hub/going-beyond-homeless-links-practice-podcast/>

A Podcast to support people who work with those who experience homelessness

2. Artist David Tovey's work

<https://davidtoveyart.co.uk/about>

3. Museum of Homelessness (MOH) in London

podcast on Criminalisation and Homelessness

<https://museumofhomelessness.org/news/our-first-ever-podcast-is-live-join-us-in-person-for-the-next-deep-dive>

A small grass roots organisation who talk about themselves as working with communities who experience homelessness. They have a politics and current affairs programme about homelessness and well worth listening to get a greater understanding of what challenges they face.

Comments:

Their community are opposed to the criminalization of poverty and say there are many ways in which the community of those who experience homelessness can be criminalised. This includes legal ways through the police and councils, cultural ways, social ways..

They do not support any punitive approach by the government. They have heard of many times when people at the sharp end tend to have the trauma turned on them and these are some of the most vulnerable people of our society

There is a basic assumption in society that the services for those experiencing homelessness are being signposted to are fit for purpose and safe and appropriate when this is often not the case. They cannot always access housing or access mental health services and if they refuse to engage this is considered an issue with the person and not the service. In extreme cases people have been sectioned for turning down accommodation offers when they say they're turning down something not fit for purpose.

Some hostels are dangerous and their community do not feel safe there which is one of the reasons they will not go.

Worrying rise of security and surveillance private companies that work alongside state systems but do not necessarily have accountability to state services

In the Chelsea and Westminster boroughs when those experiencing homelessness were handed dispersal notices they have seen people cry when they receive this. We need to remember that this is where they feel safe, even if it is just in a tent or underneath the shelter of a hospital

This is a worldwide problem and people being moved on for business improvement and to make way for big events such as the Paris Olympics causes immense distress to those experiencing homelessness

The expansion of powers police bills and council legislation is a concern. Many councils have public space Protection Orders PSP OHS and can issue community protection notices which they see as criminalization of homelessness

They work closely with human rights organisations such as Liberty and Release.

Conversations around the 200 year old Vagrancy Act and proposals to update it including the criminal justice bill. This has now not been passed but attention still needs to be paid as to what will be brought out instead to ensure homelessness is not criminalised

4. Bible project

Podcast episodes on 'God and Money (Mammon) and 'What does Jesus say about money?'
<https://bibleproject.com/podcast/story-god-money/>

The Bible project can be accessed through Spotify podcasts and takes the form of conversations based on scripture.

5. Emmaus Gloucestershire

Locally we have Emmaus Gloucestershire - there is a new shop opening on bath road and their website site has some excellent information about how you can support those who experience homelessness. Also CCP, Open Door and the Salvation Army