

NACCOM – Annual Conference Marking 10 years of solidarity in action

Wednesday, 9 April 2025, Manchester

Venue: Central Hall Manchester (Methodist Building)
Oldham Street, Manchester, M1 1JQ

Agenda

09.30 – 10.00	Registration / teas and coffees	Location: Circulation Space / Aston Room
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome and Introduction	Bridget Young, NACCOM Location: Main Hall
10.15 – 10.45	Keynote speech: 'Imagining freedom: moving away from identity politics and towards communities of solidarity'	Martha Awojobi CEO, JMB Consulting Location: Main Hall
10.45 – 12.15	Morning workshops	
	Workshop 1: All things housing: Exploring housing provision across the NACCOM network.	Location: Collier Room
	Workshop 2: Refugee move-on: The transition to living independently	Location: Lincoln Room
	Workshop 3: The landscape under Labour: Opportunities and challenges for influencing policy change in 2025 and beyond	Location: Main Hall
	Workshop 4: Making space to talk about troubling subjects with Who is Your Neighbour?	Location: The Lounge
12.15 – 1.30pm	Lunch break	

1.30 – 2.15pm	Panel discussion: What next? 10 years on: Reflections on NACCOM's vision to end destitution for people in the asylum and immigration system	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair: Shukry Adan, NACCOM Trustee • Julian Prior, Consultant, former CEO of Action Foundation and founder Chair of NACCOM • Bonnie Williams, CEO, Housing Justice • Nico Ndlovu, NACCOM Community Researcher • Sophie Wickham, Executive Director, AFRIL • Jennie Corbett, Strategy Principal - Asylum and Migration, Greater Manchester Combined Authority <p>Location: Main Hall</p>
2.15 – 3.45pm	Afternoon workshops	
	Workshop 5: A vital safety net: Rethinking emergency accommodation	Location: Main Hall
	Workshop 6: The justice gap: Expanding access to immigration advice	Location: Lincoln Room
	Workshop 7: Designing more welcoming communities	Location: The Lounge
	Workshop 8: Working towards a future without destitution: where next for the NACCOM network	Location: Collier Room
3.45pm	Final reflection from Dave Smith	Location: Main Hall
3.45– 4pm	Choral performance from Women Asylum Seekers Together	Location: Main Hall
4pm	Thank you and goodbye	Bridget Young, NACCOM Location: Main Hall

Scroll down for workshop info...

Workshop Information:

<p>Workshop 1</p> <p>All things housing: Exploring housing provision across the NACCOM network</p> <p>Housing has always been at the core of the NACCOM network, with approximately 50% of our accommodation schemes involved in some form of housing provision.</p> <p>This workshop will provide a space to explore the different approaches taking place across the network for the provision and management of housing for both people seeking asylum, other migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF), or for refugees and others with the right to rent.</p> <p>Join us to hear from NACCOM members with experience in this area, and for an extended Q&A to explore any topic relating to setting up and managing housing schemes.</p>	<p>Workshop 1 contributors</p> <p>Paul Catterall from NACCOM's Network Development Team is hosting with speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Duncan McAuley, Action Foundation• Amanda Church-McFarlane, Abigail Housing• Salma Ravat, One Roof Leicester <p>When: Morning (10.45am to 12.15) Where: Collier Room</p>
<p>Workshop 2</p> <p>Refugee move-on: The transition to living independently</p> <p>Receiving a grant of refugee status should be a moment of joy and relief, but for many, this can quickly turn into uncertainty and even crisis, as people are faced with the threat of homelessness when their asylum support is stopped.</p> <p>Over the past few years refugee homelessness has risen dramatically, exacerbated by the housing crisis. This workshop will provide a space to explore approaches taking place across the network to support people with refugee status to avoid homelessness as they move on from asylum accommodation and rebuild their lives.</p> <p>This interactive workshop will feature presentations and discussion with NACCOM members who provide refugee move-on support, from pre-tenancy training to delivering a lodging scheme.</p> <p>Expect topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre-decision preparation• Pre-tenancy training• Finding accommodation	<p>Workshop 2 contributors</p> <p>Tom MacPherson from NACCOM's Network Development Team is hosting with speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rose McCarthy, City of Sanctuary (Leeds and Horsforth)• Mohsen Iranpour Gourabi, City of Sanctuary (Leeds)• Seána Roberts, Merseyside Refugee Support Network• Anna Lindley, SOAS University of London and Asylum Welcome• Tania Baldwin-Pask and Malaz Yousif, Asylum Welcome• Joe Rinvoluceri, Housing Justice England <p>When: Morning (10.45am to 12.15) Where: Lincoln Room</p>

- Accessing financial support
- Tenancy sustainment
- Liaising with local authorities
- Lodging schemes
- What has and what hasn't worked?

<p>Workshop 3</p> <p>The landscape under Labour: Opportunities and challenges for influencing policy change in 2025 and beyond</p> <p>With the Labour Government now firmly established in office, and following the introduction of their flagship piece of immigration legislation - the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill - what are Labour's priorities for reform of the UK asylum and immigration system, and how can voluntary sector organisations, including those in devolved nations, effectively mobilise and push for policy change? In this workshop we'll explore the current political context, and opportunities and challenges in key policy areas to prevent and end migrant and refugee destitution and homelessness.</p> <p>The session will look at the national and devolved contexts, and how frontline organisations interested or involved in influencing and campaigning work can impactfully collaborate.</p>	<p>Workshop 3 contributors</p> <p>Hannah Gurnham NACCOM's External Affairs Manager is hosting with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Dunlop-Price, Asylum Reform Initiative • Niamh Rowan, Law Centre NI <p>When: Morning (10.45am to 12.15) Where: Main Hall</p>
<p>Workshop 4</p> <p>Making space to talk about troubling subjects - with Who is Your Neighbour?</p> <p>The violent riots of Summer 2024 highlighted deep-rooted issues of division in communities across the UK.</p> <p>Who is Your Neighbour? (WiYN?) is a South Yorkshire-based charity that facilitates meaningful dialogues on challenging topics like race, immigration and cultural change, helping to bridge divides through empathy and curiosity. It offers training, resources and support to share valuable lessons learned from its work in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield, where its conversations have proven effective in building resilience against divisive narratives and fostering more inclusive communities.</p>	<p>Workshop 4 contributors:</p> <p>Katie Fawcett from NACCOM's Network Development Team is hosting with speakers from Who is Your Neighbour?</p> <p>When: Morning (10.45am to 12.15) Where: The Lounge</p>

<p>This workshop is an opportunity to learn about <i>WiYN?</i>'s work, how it can create lasting change and the training opportunities available.</p>	
<p>Workshop 5</p> <p>A vital safety net: Rethinking emergency accommodation</p> <p>Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, traditional communal night shelters were a key component of many NACCOM members' accommodation offer to people seeking asylum with NRPF.</p> <p>This workshop will explore how the provision of night shelters and other forms of emergency accommodation has evolved in a post-Covid-19 environment.</p> <p>We'll hear how different projects have evolved and adapted and discuss the ongoing role and place for night shelters and other forms of emergency accommodation in meeting the immediate needs of those either left homeless due to the housing crisis or their NRPF status.</p>	<p>Workshop 5 contributors</p> <p>Paul, Katie and Tom from NACCOM's Network Development Team are hosting.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacob Dimitriou, Housing Justice • Melanie Khuddro, Resettlement CIC • Jochen Kortländer, ASSIST • Oliver Chamberlain, ASSIST • Ted Britton, WYDAN • Katrina Burton, WYDAN <p>When: Afternoon (2.15pm to 3.45pm) Where: Main Hall</p>
<p>Workshop 6</p> <p>The justice gap: Expanding access to immigration advice</p> <p>This workshop will explore practical strategies for improving access to quality immigration advice and justice. Speakers will share insights on how to navigate IAA accreditation, develop and scale advice services, and ensure that the advice we provide is high-quality. We will also discuss how we can collectively respond to the challenging context of the ongoing legal aid crisis and the sharp rise of appellants without legal representation.</p>	<p>Workshop 6 contributors</p> <p>Leon Elliott NACCOM's Policy and Research Coordinator is hosting with speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Adamson, Penrith and Eden Refugee Network (PERN) • Gamal Hawam, Penrith and Eden Refugee Network (PERN) • Tom Nunn, South Yorkshire Refugee Law and Justice • Frances Timberlake, Migrants Organise • Moses Mugenyi, Migrants Organise <p>When: Afternoon (2.15pm to 3.45pm) Where: Lincoln Room</p>

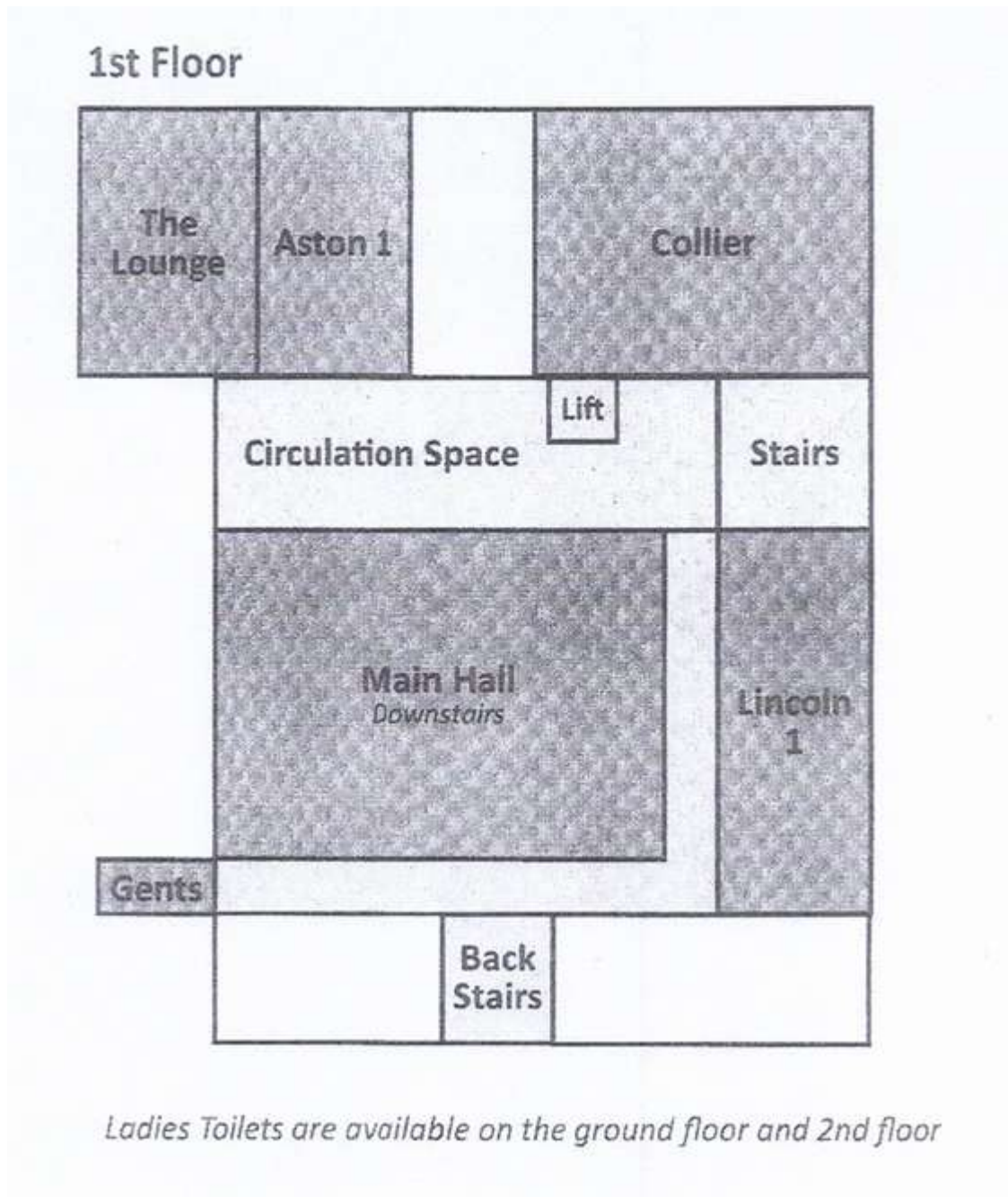
<p>Workshop 7</p> <p>Designing more welcoming communities</p> <p>What does a welcoming local community look like? Momentum is building around calls to move to a decentralised asylum accommodation system, and with it comes an opportunity to think about how cities, regions and communities receive people who are seeking asylum. How can people be supported to settle and make homes for themselves in our communities? What services and infrastructure is needed? What is the role of NACCOM member organisations? And how do we ensure people with lived experience are central to answering these questions?</p> <p>In this interactive workshop we will come together to think imaginatively and creatively about what a better welcome for people seeking sanctuary in our local areas can – and should - look like.</p>	<p>Workshop 7 contributors</p> <p>Finn McKay NACCOM’s Community Research Facilitator is hosting with speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kas and Ann, NACCOM CRG • Rosie Tapsfield, City of Sanctuary UK • Sami Gichki, City of Sanctuary Manchester • Aymen Al-Khawlani, Maryhill Integration Network <p>When: Afternoon (2.15pm to 3.45pm) Where: The Lounge</p>
<p>Workshop 8</p> <p>Working towards a future without destitution: where next for the NACCOM network</p> <p>Is it possible to design destitution out of the asylum and immigration system for good?</p> <p>This workshop will be a chance to continue the reflections and discussions from the panel, not just about NACCOM’s role in ending homelessness and destitution, but in how different organisations can play a role in our collective eco-system.</p> <p>The workshop will include discussions on working with refugees and those with No Recourse to Public Funds, and people who are undocumented or have unclear status.</p>	<p>Workshop 8 contributors:</p> <p>Bridget Young NACCOM’s Director will facilitate as a follow-on to the afternoon panel discussion.</p> <p>When: Afternoon (2.15pm to 3.45pm) Where: Collier Room</p>

Summary of workshops/rooms:

Room	Morning workshop (10.45am to 12.15)	Afternoon workshop (2.15pm to 3.45pm)
Main Hall	<p>Workshop 3</p> <p>The landscape under Labour: Opportunities and challenges for influencing policy change in 2025 and beyond</p>	<p>Workshop 5</p> <p>A vital safety net: Rethinking emergency accommodation</p>
Collier Room	<p>Workshop 1</p> <p>All things housing: Exploring housing provision across the NACCOM network</p>	<p>Workshop 8</p> <p>Working towards a future without destitution: where next for the NACCOM network</p>
Lincoln Room	<p>Workshop 2</p> <p>Refugee move-on: The transition to living independently</p>	<p>Workshop 6</p> <p>The justice gap: Expanding access to immigration advice</p>
The Lounge	<p>Workshop 4</p> <p>Making space to talk about troubling subjects - with Who is Your Neighbour?</p>	<p>Workshop 7</p> <p>Designing more welcoming communities</p>
Aston Room	Refreshments and lunch	Refreshments and lunch

Floor plan:

Note: all rooms are on the **First Floor** of the building, accessed by the main **Stairs** or **Lift**:



Other conference information:

Refreshments / lunch

Hot drinks will be available in **Aston Room** in the morning when you register your arrival and also at lunchtime. We are very pleased to have a local social enterprise [Cracking Good Food](#) providing lunch for the conference this year.

Wellbeing activities to support self-care during the day

Time Out: The Chapel on the Ground floor/street level can be used by anyone (Conference attendees and others) as a space for wellbeing time / prayer / quiet time out.

Mindfulness Colouring: We encourage you to colour in a postcard – designed to aid mindfulness. You can do this whilst you are listening and during breaks. The cards are for you to keep or if you want, send them to someone as a way of passing on a message of hope, encouragement and solidarity. You will also find them in the workshop rooms alongside a doodling activity.

Memories and Values: We will have a board with photos taken at different points of NACCOM's journey. You can marvel at people's hairstyles and how young they looked. We will also have some post-it notes for you to write any reflections from the day, or things that you value about NACCOM, what you'd like to see NACCOM do more of, something you're proud of as part of the network, etc. These will help in strategy and membership support development and our communications work.

Stalls

We have invited some partner and member organisations – particularly those who provide services or infrastructure type support to the sector – to have a stall at this year's conference. These will be in the Circulation Space near the registration desk, so please go and say hello in the morning and during lunch and learn more about what they do!

Reducing our environmental impact

We have been trying to make the event as environmentally conscious as possible.

We are not providing printouts of the agenda, workshop info etc. Attendees can access all conference documents electronically. We will have a small number of printouts for those that need it, including large print copies.

Accessing WiFi

Central Hall has public access WiFi which is free to use. Select 'Methodist Public' from the list of available networks.

Communications and social media on the day

Please feel free to post photos and reflections about the conference on social media but be mindful that some delegates have chosen not to have their photo taken, so please ensure that no-one with a red sticker on their name badge features in your photos.

- **Hashtags:** Please use #EndDestitution and / or #NACCOM10 when you post, and tag NACCOM in where you can. You can find us on [Bluesky \(@nacomnetwork.bsky.social\)](#), [LinkedIn \(linkedin.com/company/nacom\)](#) and [Facebook \(Facebook/Nacomnetwork\)](#).
- **Suggested posts:** We're proud to be marking ten years of solidarity in action with NACCOM Network (*tag us if possible*) in Manchester, working together to #EndDestitution in the asylum and immigration system. #NACCOM10
- **Vox pops:** NACCOM's communications team will also be asking members to reflect on their experiences of the conference throughout the day. If you are keen to participate, by having a short interview, then please find a member of staff on the day.
- **Selfies:** We will also have a selfie frame that you can use to take pics on the day.

Event photographer and photo consent

Our photographer will be taking photos throughout the event. If you want to update your photo consent status, please email office@nacom.org.uk or speak to registration desk staff on the day.