

# Harassment and illegal eviction



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“ Strategic and  
Community Housing  
Service works to  
meet Haringey’s  
current and future  
housing need ”

## Harassment and illegal eviction

This leaflet is a guide to what you can do if someone is harassing you to make you leave your home. It also offers advice on what to do if you are being illegally evicted from your home.

**Harassment and illegal eviction from your home are criminal offences. Your landlord, or anyone acting on their behalf, may get a fine or a prison sentence, or both, if found guilty. You may also be able to claim damages through the civil court.**

### What is harassment?

Harassment is when your landlord, letting agent or some other person does something deliberately to make you leave your home.

Some examples are:

- Cutting off your water, gas or electricity.
- Using threatening behaviour.
- Trying to make you sign an agreement that takes away your legal rights.
- Interfering with your possessions.
- Moving into part of your home.

### What is illegal eviction?

This is when someone forces you to leave your home illegally.

This could be done by:

- Physically throwing you out of your house.
- Changing your door locks.
- Stopping you from getting into part of your home.

## What rights do I have?

### ***Lawful eviction***

Your rights to stay in your home depend on the type of tenancy you have.

Normally, if you pay rent for a house, flat or bedsit and your landlord does not live there you will be an **assured shorthold tenant**. In this case, the landlord will have to give you notice in writing and apply to the court for a possession order before he or she can evict you.

If you live in a hostel or bed and breakfast accommodation, you will usually have fewer rights. However, you should still get reasonable notice to leave. This could be given verbally.

If you are uncertain of your tenancy rights you should contact our Housing Advice and Options Team for advice. See the useful contacts section at the end of this leaflet.

## What can I do if my landlord is harassing or evicting me?

If you are being harassed, it will help if you keep a diary of everything that happens.

- Make a note of any incident, including threats made against you. Describe what happened including the date and time.
- Write down the names and addresses of any people involved, especially witnesses. Include the names of any police officers who attend the incident.
- If you report an incident to the police, ask the police officer for their name and badge number.
- If you need medical treatment, write down the names of the doctors who examined you.

Contact the Housing Advice and Options Team and explain your situation. See the useful contacts section at the end of this leaflet.

We can advise you of your legal rights. We can also contact your landlord to advise them to stop the harassment and warn them that they could be prosecuted.

Haringey Law Centre (see the useful contact details at the end of this leaflet) or your solicitor may be able to help you apply for a court injunction to stop your landlord harassing or evicting you.

If you receive Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance or other benefits, such as Family Tax Credit, you will usually be eligible for help with your legal costs.

### **What can I do in an emergency?**

If at any time you feel that your life is in danger, call 999.

You should always tell the police if you are being harassed or illegally evicted. This is particularly important if you have been threatened or assaulted or if your property has been damaged or stolen. Call 0300 123 1212.

### **What other help is available?**

We can take other practical measures to protect you, where appropriate.

For example, we can arrange for the locks on your accommodation to be changed.



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## Useful contacts

### **Haringey Council Customer Services**

**Telephone:** 020 8489 1000  
**Website:** [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)  
**Typetalk:** 18001 020 8489 1000

Visit one of our **Customer Service Centres**, open Monday to Friday, 8.45am to 5pm

**Hornsey  
Customer Service Centre**  
Hornsey Town Hall Annexe  
The Broadway  
Crouch End  
London N8 9JJ

**North Tottenham  
Customer Service Centre**  
639 High Road  
London N17 8BD

**South Tottenham  
Customer Service Centre**  
Apex House  
820 Seven Sisters Road  
London N15 5PQ

**Wood Green  
Customer Service Centre**  
48 Station Road  
London N22 7TY

For more information about the advice provided in this leaflet contact our  
**Housing Advice and Options Team**

Telephone: 020 8489 4309  
Typetalk: 18001 020 8489 4309  
Email: [housing.advice@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:housing.advice@haringey.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.haringey.gov.uk/housing](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/housing)

By post: Housing Advice and Options Team  
Haringey Council  
Apex House  
820 Seven Sisters Road  
London N15 5PQ

### **Haringey Police**

**Telephone:** 0300 123 1212

**Website:**

[www.met.police.uk/haringey](http://www.met.police.uk/haringey)

### **Haringey Law Centre**

7 Holcombe Road

Tottenham

N17 9AA

**Telephone:** 020 8808 5354

**Fax:** 020 8801 1516

**Email:**

[tottenhamlawcentre@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:tottenhamlawcentre@tiscali.co.uk)

**Website:**

[www.haringeylawcentre.org.uk](http://www.haringeylawcentre.org.uk)

### **Are you being harassed in other ways?**

If you feel that you are experiencing other forms of harassment, for example, getting obscene phone calls or being intimidated by a neighbour, call our Anti-social Behaviour Action Team.

**Telephone:** 020 8489 1000

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. In an emergency call 020 8348 3148.

Shqip

Kjo fletushkë ju tregon se çfarë të bëni në rast ngacmimi dhe dëbimi kundërligjor nga shtëpia tuaj. Nëse e doni këtë në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutem shënjoni ✓ kutinë, plotësoni emrin dhe adresën tuaj dhe dërgojeni formularin tek adresa e mëposhtme me Postim Falas.

Polski

Niniejsza publikacja informuje lokatorów o działaniach, jakie należy podjąć w razie prób szykanowania lub nielegalnej eksmisji z domu lub mieszkania. Aby otrzymać tekst publikacji w języku polskim należy zaznaczyć odpowiednią rubrykę, wpisać nazwisko i adres oraz odesłać formularz bezpłatnie na podany poniżej adres.

Français

Ce feuillet vous explique les démarches à suivre en cas de harcèlement ou d'expulsion illégale de votre logement. Pour en recevoir un exemplaire dans votre langue, veuillez cocher la case, compléter votre nom et adresse et renvoyer le formulaire à l'adresse en port payé ci-dessous.

Soomaali

Warqaddani waxay kuu sheegaysaa waxa laga qabto hagaradaamada iyo guriga haddii lagaaga saaray si sharci darro ah. Haddii aad rabto iyadoo luqaddaada ku qoran, fadlan calaamadi sanduuqa, ku qor magacaaga iyo cinwaankaaga oo foomka ku soo dir cinwaanka boostiisu lacag la'aanta yahay ee hoose.

Kurdî Kurmancî

Ev belavok ji we re dibêje ku ji bo çewisandin û ji xanî derxistina neqanûnî çî bikin. Heke hun vê bi zimanê xwe dixwazin, ji kerema xwe qutîkê îşaret bikin, nav û navnîşana xwe binivîsin û formê ji navnîşana posta bêpere ya jêrîn re bişînin.

Türkçe

Bu broşür konutunuzdan illegal çıkartılmanız ve taciz edilmeniz durumunda neler yapabileceğiniz konusunda bilgi sunmaktadır. Eğer broşürün Türkçe kopyasını edinmek istiyorsanız, lütfen uygun kutucuğu işaretleyin, adınızı ve adresinizi yazarak formu aşağıda belirtilen ücretsiz posta adresine gönderin.

Please tell us if you would like a copy of this leaflet in another language that is not listed above or in any of the following formats, and send the form to the Freepost address below.

- In large print     On audio tape     In Braille     In another language, please state: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Freepost RLXS-XZGT-UGRJ, Haringey Council,  
Translation and Interpretation Services, 8th Floor, River Park House, 225 High Road, London N22 8HQ

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