

Daniel Mongan

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

28 February 2018

Draft New London Plan consultation

Polley H16 Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation

I'm Daniel Mongan, an Irish Traveller born and bred in Hackney, where I grew up on the caravan site and went to school. After I started my own family and had a son there was no longer room for us on the site. The government is saying it's illegal to be living on the side of the road and because there are not enough sites Travellers get pushed into houses.

I have been in temporary accommodation where I was placed by my local council for 1.5 years. I have separated from my son's mother and the courts said that I can have him 2 days a week every week. This should class me as priority for housing according to the council's website. But two weeks ago they took my accommodation away from me and kicked me out on the streets. They now say I don't class as priority because my son's mother gets benefits for him, so they don't see me as a proper parent, although the courts have made a decision and think I am a good father. I found the council to be discriminating against me and they made me homeless.

I was fortunate to find accommodation through a charity and I hope they will also consider that I have a son and I need a proper place to have him over at the weekend. As a parent I need security and safety, a place where I can look after my son. Thousands of people are being made homeless every year. But for Travellers it's even worse and we are not allowed to live our way of life. There is so much discrimination as well. If you have grown up living on a site being pushed in housing has very bad effects on your mental health. How can the councils and government expect you to live a normal life, get into work, pay a rent in private rented housing if you've gone through all this and have been made homeless? I went on through so much heart ache but I have to keep fighting and fighting.

The Mayor's London Plan needs to make sure there is enough accommodation delivered by councils to keep people from being made homeless and to allow Gypsies and Travellers to continue their culture and ethnic way of life. Permanent sites and temporary stopping places need to be provided the same as other housing and there should be better oversight from the Mayor to make sure this happens.

I would like to attend the Examination in Public to be part of the discussion on this policy.